

# CHINESE SATIRE AND HUMOUR

Bilingual Edition

Selected Cartoons of Hua Junwu  
(1955 ~ 1982)

Translated by W.J.F. Jenner



华君武漫画选  
一九五五年至一九八二年

New World Press, Beijing

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With comments written especially for this  
bilingual edition by Hua Junwu

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英译者 詹纳尔

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新世界出版社·北京

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I WAS born in 1915. Because of financial difficulties, I was neither able to attend art school nor complete my college education. In 1936, I began a two-year stint at a Shanghai bank working as a clerk. Though I grew up in China's famous "paradise" cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou, this "paradise" conferred very little happiness on me. In 1934 while still a student in Shanghai, I began drawing cartoons, a number of which were published in local periodicals.

In 1938, a year after the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japan, I said farewell to the miseries of the old society and like many other young people at that time set out for the anti-Japanese base at Yan'an. For eight years I worked in the Lu Xun Academy of Literature and Art, and it was through my experience of life in Yan'an that I gradually came to realize the correct path in both life and art.

The victory of the anti-Japanese war in 1945 was followed by the start of the Third Revolutionary Civil War, whereupon I went to the liberated areas in the northeast to work as a reporter and regular cartoonist for the *North-east Daily*. I continued in that capacity for four years.

After the founding of the People's Republic in 1949, I was in charge of the art department of the *People's Daily*, and since 1953 have served in the leadership of the Chinese Artists' Association. In my sparetime, however, I continue to draw cartoons.



## Preface

Writing the preface to your own book isn't easy. As the ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Zi said, self-knowledge is something very highly valued. This is because so few people have it, and I am certainly not one of that minority. Besides, when you have to write about yourself in a preface, if you blow your own trumpet, you become like Old Wang the melon-seller in the Chinese proverb, who was always singing his own praises.

I never went to art school. I say this not to present myself as some kind of genius but because readers will have no difficulty in spotting evidence of my lack of specialist training in my cartoons. Actually, I regard myself as a folk-artist. Folk-artists have many strengths. They are close to the common people from whom they spring; their art is freer because it is not shackled by academic conventions; and although they learn much from their masters they also borrow widely. Chinese people disapprove of unbalanced diets and feel that one needs to eat a bit of everything to be properly nourished. I never had a teacher, but at the same time I've also had a lot of teachers: any picture from which I can learn something, whether it be Chinese, foreign, or even by a child, serves as my teacher.

When I started learning how to draw cartoons in the 1930s, I learned some "lessons" from two foreign teachers. One was the German E. O. Plauen, whose strip cartoon Vater und Sohn (Father and Son) was widely appreciated by Chinese cartoonists. I greatly admired his humour and the simplicity of his line and composition. The other was Sapajou, a White Russian I believe, who worked for the British-owned Shanghai newspaper *The North China Daily News* and specialized in cartoons on international affairs. His line was very fluent, and I was captivated by the way he caught and exaggerated the features of his "victims". In those days, I even imitated the way he wrote his signature. Looking back now, it may seem a bit childish, but at the time I was rather pleased with myself for being able to do so.

Any art must strike roots in its own nation and people. China's soybeans are world-famous, but during a visit to Czechoslovakia in the 1950s I was told that Chinese soybeans would not form pods properly there. Chinese painting has always drawn on foreign influence but has always remained distinctly Chinese. Grafted or transplanted plants and trees have to draw nourishment from the new soil in which they grow if they are not to share the fate of the Chinese soybeans in Czechoslovakia.

Shanghai in the 1930s was a cross between a colonial and feudal society, a special



territory where Chinese and foreigners lived cheek by jowl. As I had learned so much from foreigners' cartoons, my own cartoons were inevitably rather foreign in flavour. Fortunately, the only people who paid any attention to cartoons in the Shanghai of those days were, I suppose, a few intellectuals who were also foreign influenced, so I was able to get by.

After the outbreak of the War of Resistance Against Japan (1937-1945), I went to Yan'an with its thoroughly Chinese rural atmosphere. Nearly all of the local people were peasants. The soldiers of the Eighth Route Army — the anti-Japanese forces led by the Communist Party of China — were peasants in uniform, and many of the cadres were of peasant origin as well. Peasants found it hard to understand the sort of foreign-style cartoons which I used to draw in Shanghai, and I found myself feeling more and more like a round peg in a square hole. As it happened, the Yan'an newspaper, *The Liberation Daily*, which was printed on locally-made paper, carried cartoons that were printed from woodblocks. As there were so few chances to publish my cartoons there, the contradictions between my work and the local audience were not very striking. At that time I read Mao Zedong's writings on literature and art and gradually came to realize that all literature and art had to be firmly grounded in a national style, or what Mao Zedong called the "Chinese style and spirit which the common people of China love". For the last 40 years I have been exploring this principle and putting it into practice. I do not reject foreign cartoons. Although the political views they express differ from my own, many foreign cartoonists are fine artists and I continue to draw much nourishment from their work.

The cartoons in this collection date from 1955 to the present. Because of war and other reasons, all of my work from the 1930s and 1940s has been lost.

In 1958 I met the famous British cartoonist David Low in London. He asked me a question that was not entirely friendly: "Is there any satire in China?" Many years later I met some other foreign cartoonists. Whether because of their ignorance of China or because of their prejudice they seemed to imagine that the Communist Party of China and the Chinese government had banned or were afraid of satire. But, with the exception of the decade of the "Cultural Revolution" (1966-76), I have been drawing satirical cartoons ever since I joined the revolution over 40 years ago. The only time during those 40 years I have ever tasted repression was during that

decade. Many people who were not cartoonists also suffered oppression then, which suggests what was at issue was not satire as such.

Foreign readers may perhaps not understand that in new China satire is necessary. Our society was born of the old one, and the ideas, philosophical views and ways of thought that developed over thousands of years of feudalism and over a century of capitalism did not disappear from people's minds with the end of the old order and the inception of the new social system. Under the new order, corrupting ideas are also constantly assailing us from the outside. The main themes of contemporary Chinese cartoons are the contradictions and clashes between new and old thinking and ideologies. The point of satirizing old thinking is to strengthen new ways of thinking and the new social system itself.

When abroad I have been asked by concerned parents whether China publishes the kind of obscene and pornographic cartoons that damage the souls of the young. My answer to them is that the emphasis in our cartoons is on education, and our government and people do not permit the existence of pornographic and violent art. It may be that some people will find in this grounds for saying that there is no freedom of creation in China. They are right in that we do not have the freedom to create that sort of thing or to oppose the Communist Party and socialism.

For this bilingual edition I have written some additional — perhaps superfluous — comments for the majority of the cartoons, which appear beneath the captions (or verses) in italics. I hope that they will provide readers abroad with a better understanding of what my cartoons are all about. Readers may also notice that the English lettering in the cartoons has a particularly Chinese flavour. This should cause no surprise since I wrote the English words myself with a Chinese brush.

Finally, I would like to thank Bill Jenner and the staff of New World Press for their help and support in bringing this book into being.

Hua Junwu  
December 1982  
Beijing

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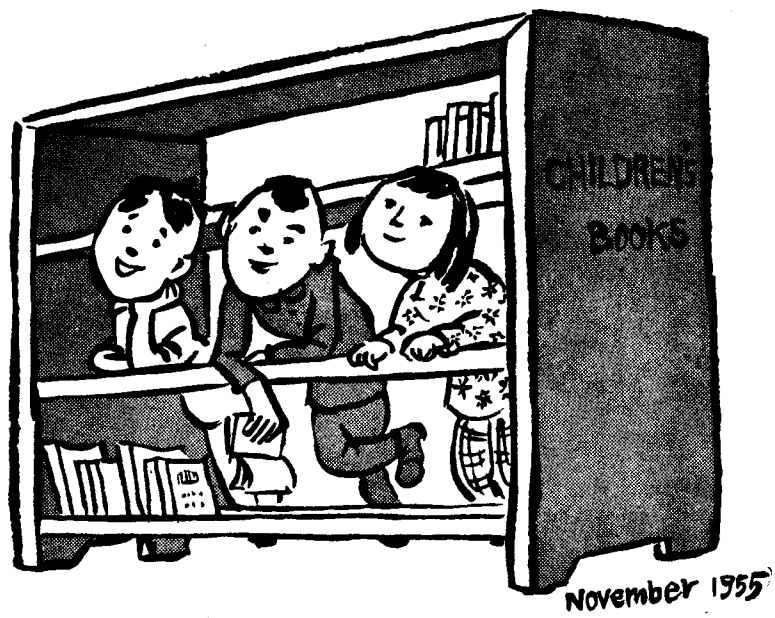
# Cartoons

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漫 画

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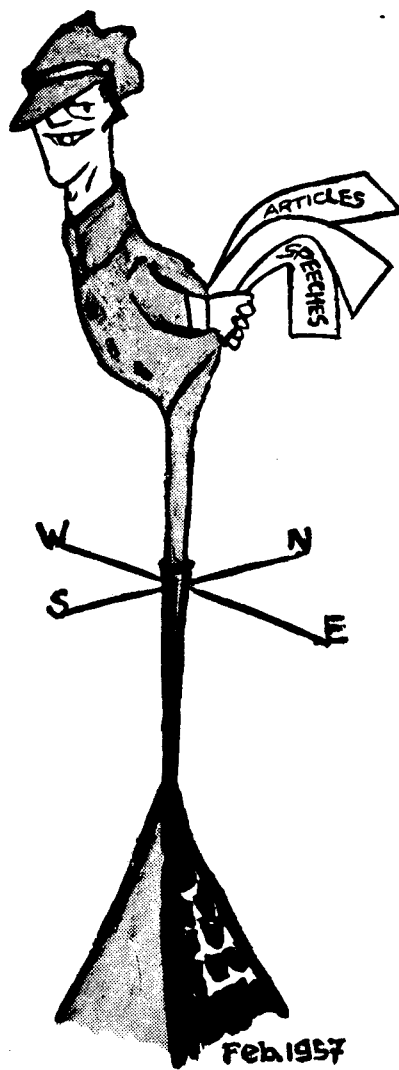
1. "Who said you could get in there?"  
"Who told you not to give us more books?"

*There are too few children's books.*



## 2. The weathervane

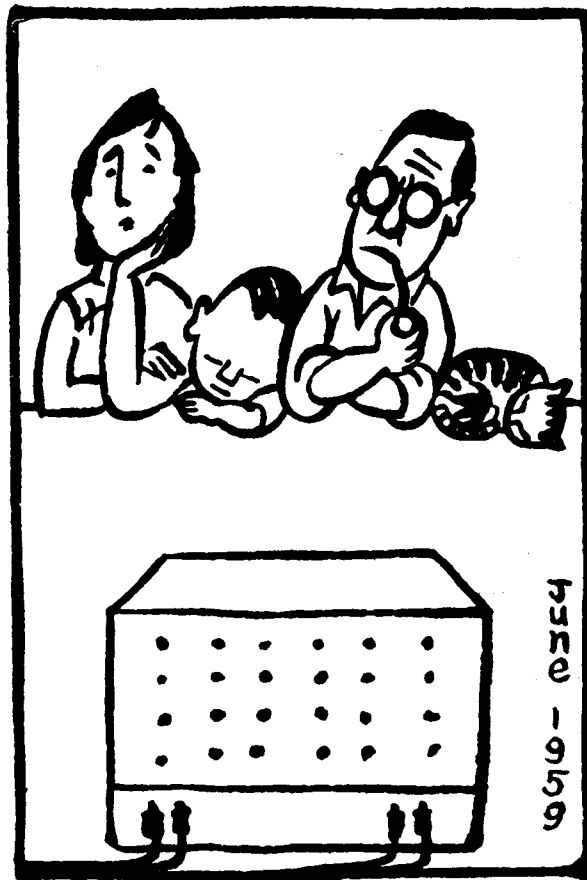
Some people too lazy to think for themselves  
face whichever way the wind is blowing.



*We despise people who change with the wind.*



3. "Will anyone give me a shave?"



4. Listening to comedians on the radio

*Comedians are supposed to make you laugh...*



5. My bookcase

*How can the country become strong without culture?*

In Praise of the snail

crawling, tarrying  
Dillying, dallying  
I inch along at my own  
stately pace,  
And I'm the only runner  
in the race.

sept. 1959



6. The snail



7. Milking the bull

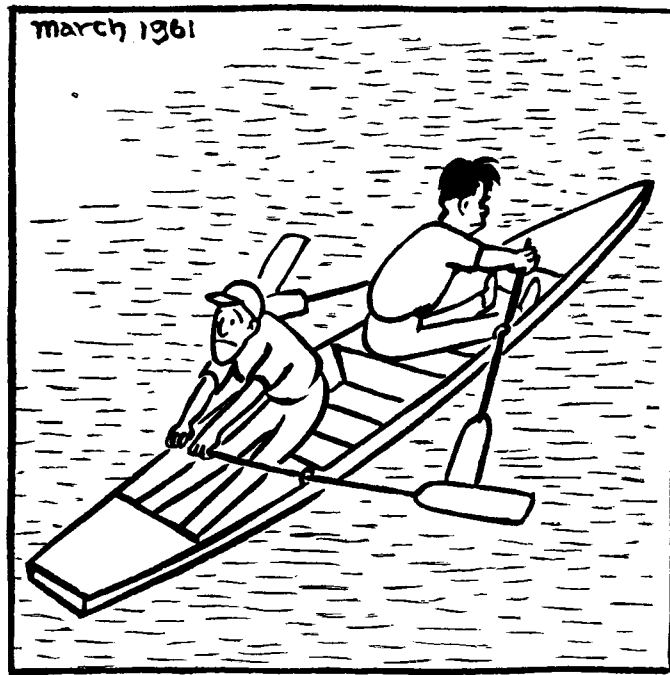
— for those who don't make proper investigations, and as a warning to myself.





8. Wasting their youth  
— for speakers who wander miles from their subjects.

*I can feel my colleagues ageing during some meetings with endless speeches.*



9. Pointless effort



10. "I'll damn well make you laugh."

Poor comedians might be more entertaining if they tickled members of the audience under the arms.

*Comedians are supposed to be funny, but some are far from it.*



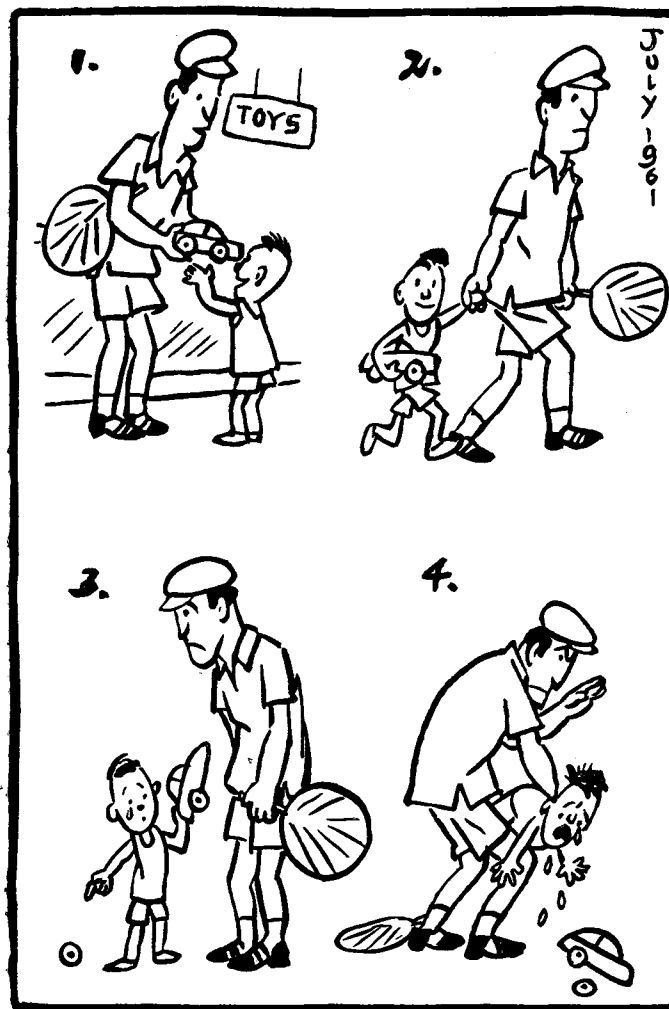
11. An endless flow

*Alas, there are still those in our society who do not respect the labour of others.*



12. Du Fu's self-criticism

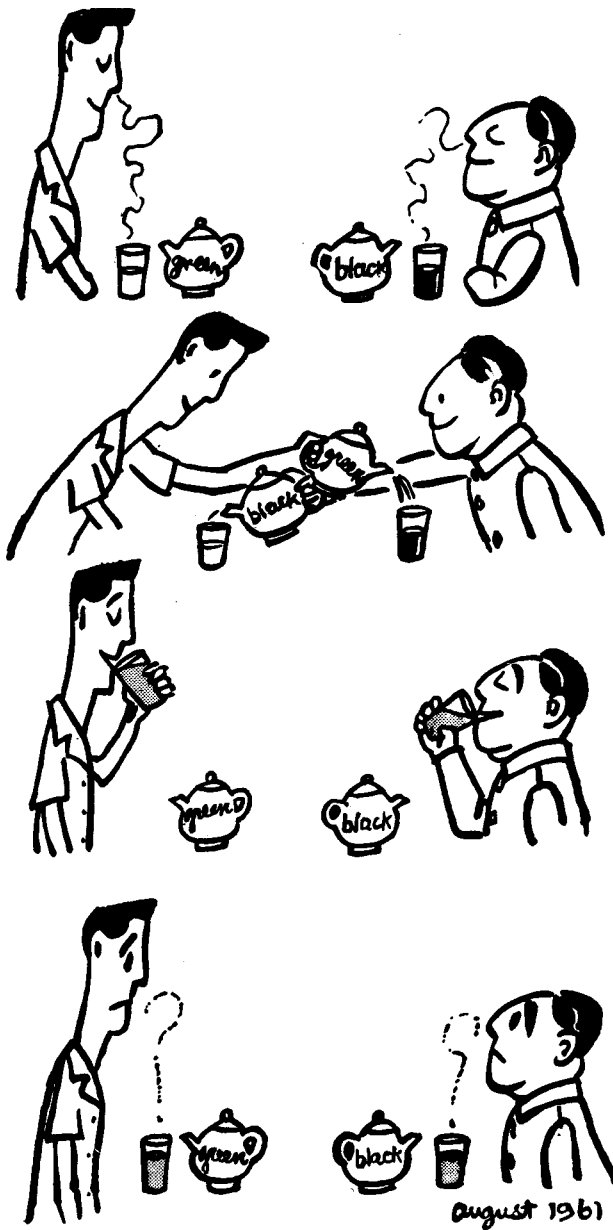
*The great poet Du Fu (712-770) wrote "Army Carts" about the misery of war.*



13. Taking the blame for others

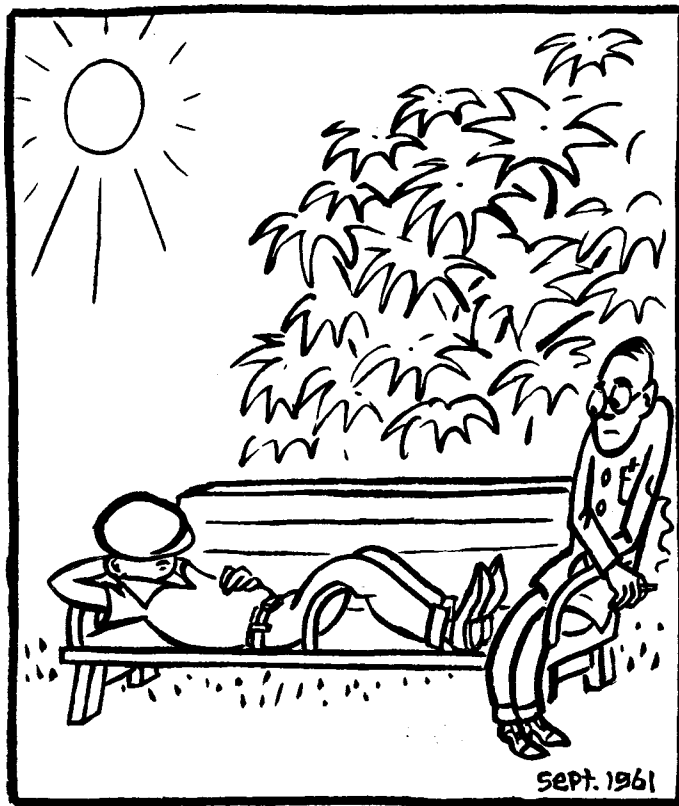
*The sorrows that shoddy toys inflict on children.*



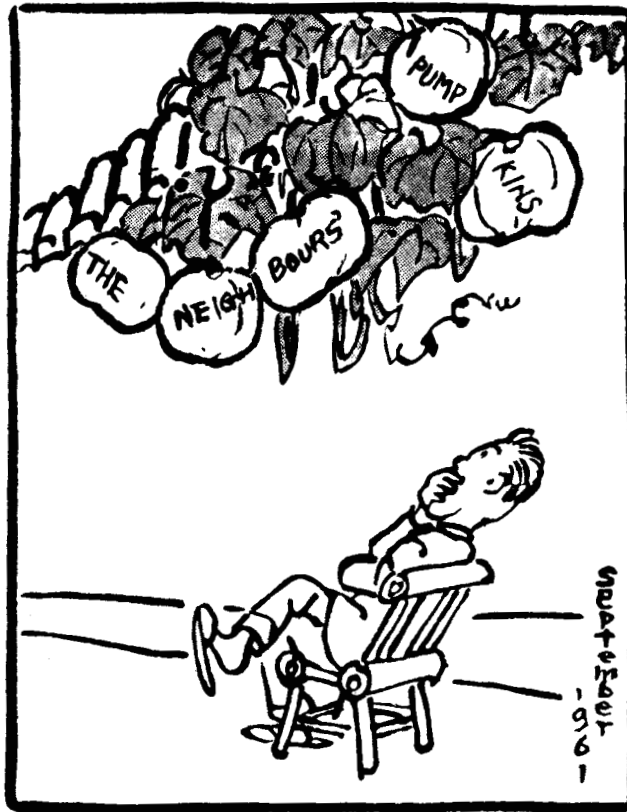


#### 14. Losing the flavour of both

*It's good idea to learn from others, but you should never lose your own strengths.*



15. 3:1



16. Enjoying the fruits of one's "own" labour



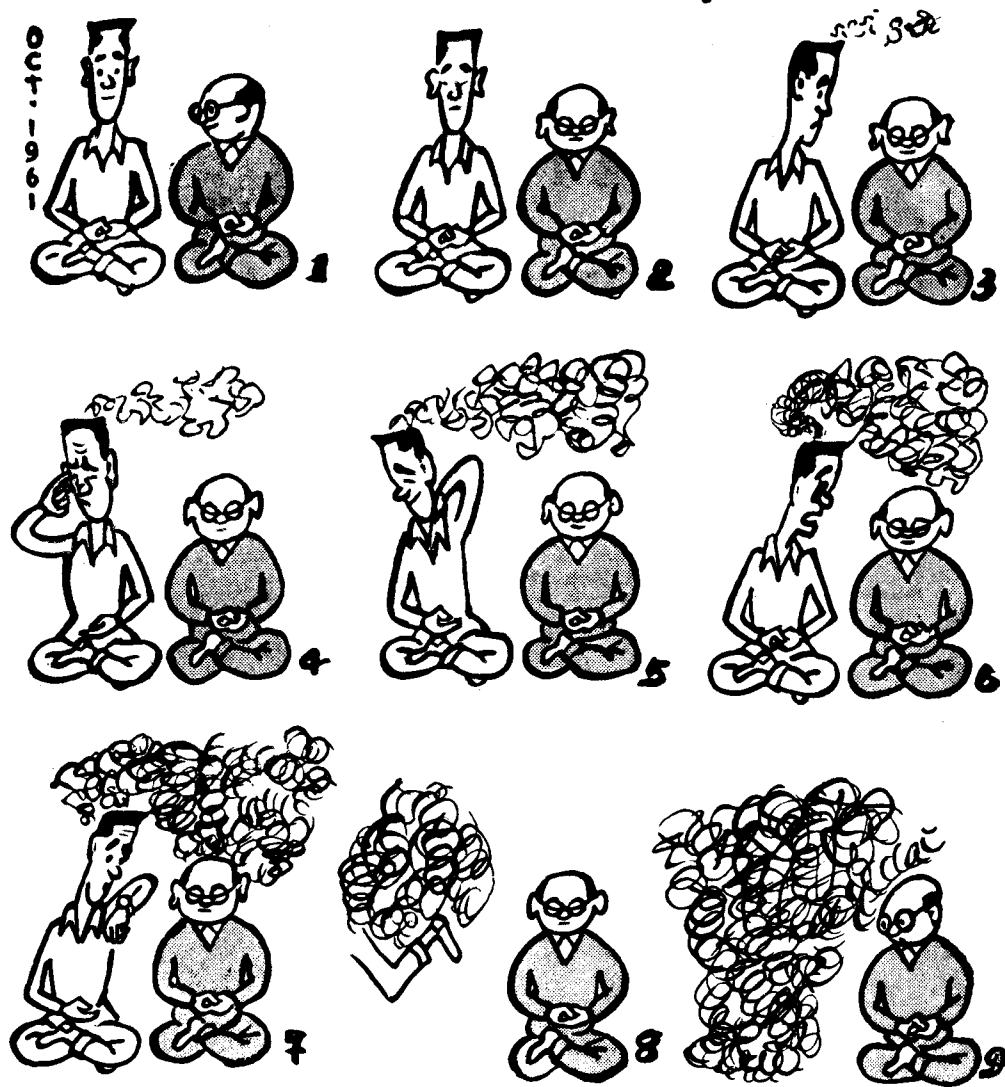
17. Learning to swim in the washbasin

*Nobody ever learnt to swim in a washbasin, but in real life there are still some people who try.*



18. Burning with anger

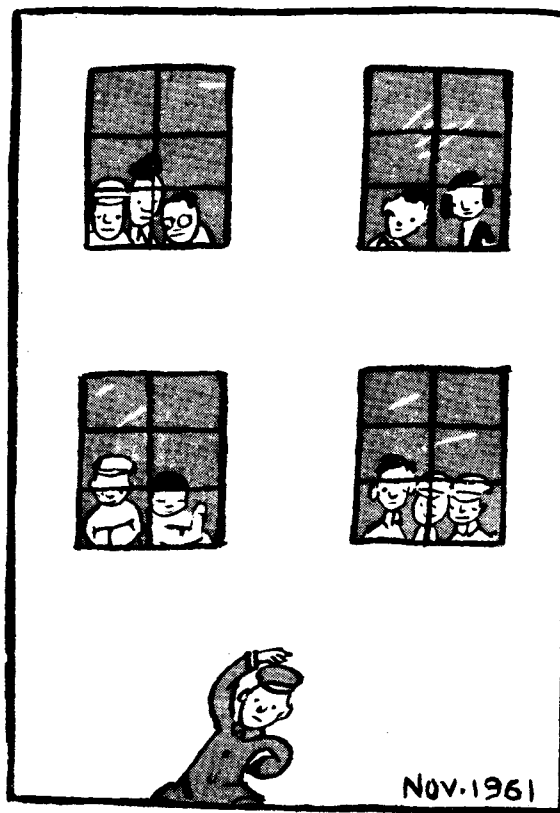
*According to the Chinese saying, when you lose your temper "flames leap up thirty feet high". Some Chinese products are of such poor quality as to drive one into a blazing fury.*



19 Breathing exercises (not an attack on breathing exercises)

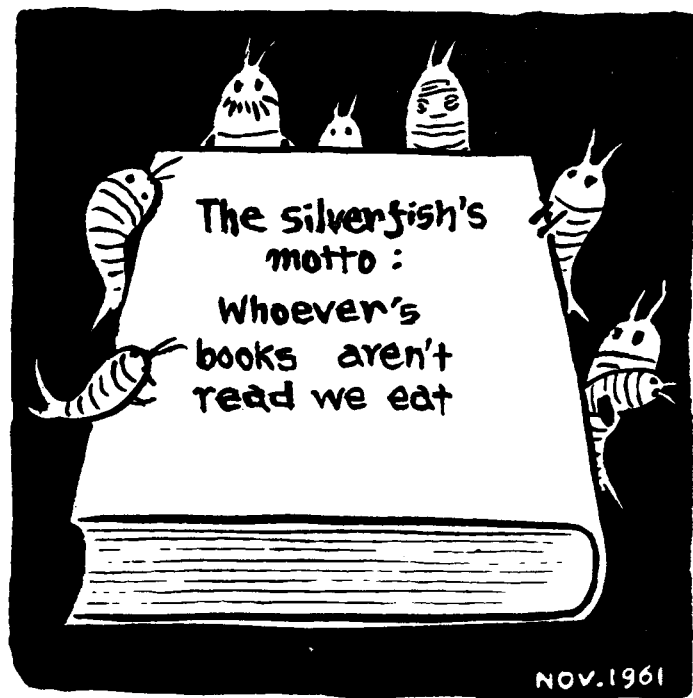
*A jibe at impatience.*





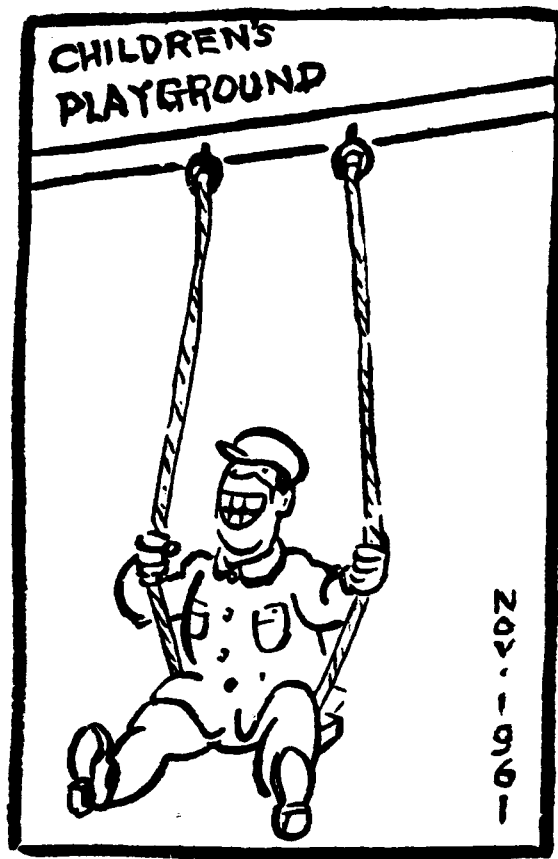
20. The season for watching exercises

*There is a Chinese saying that refers to exercising even in the depth of winter and the height of summer. Some people, alas, don't have this sort of sticking power in whatever they do.*



21. The silverfishes' banquet

*A comment on those who buy books for appearance's sake only.*



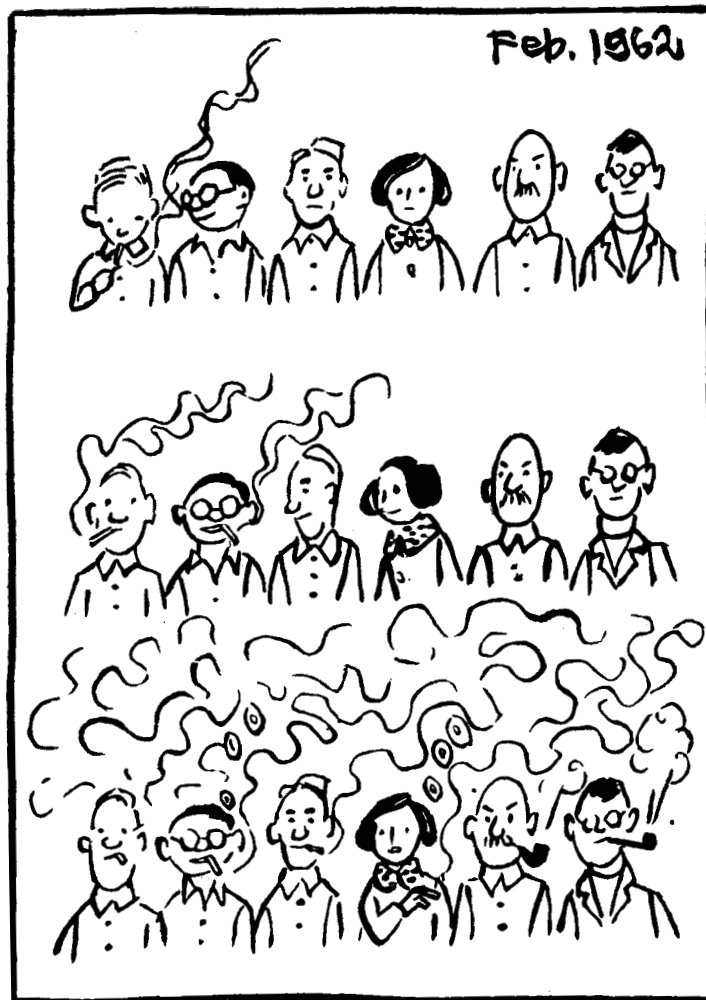
22. Untitled

*We still have some big "babies" like this around.*

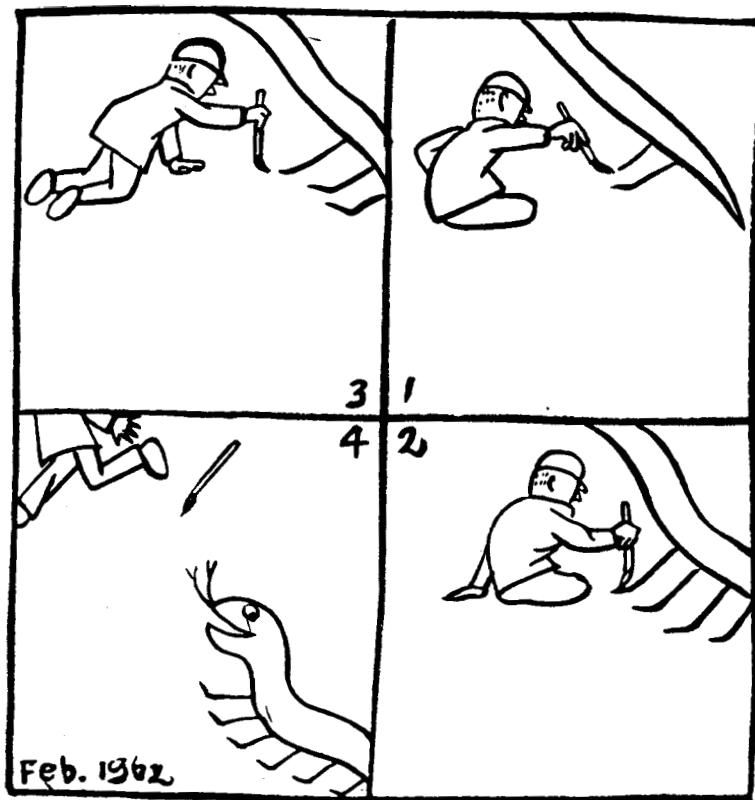


23. The safe way to walk

*A criticism of doing things without creativity.*



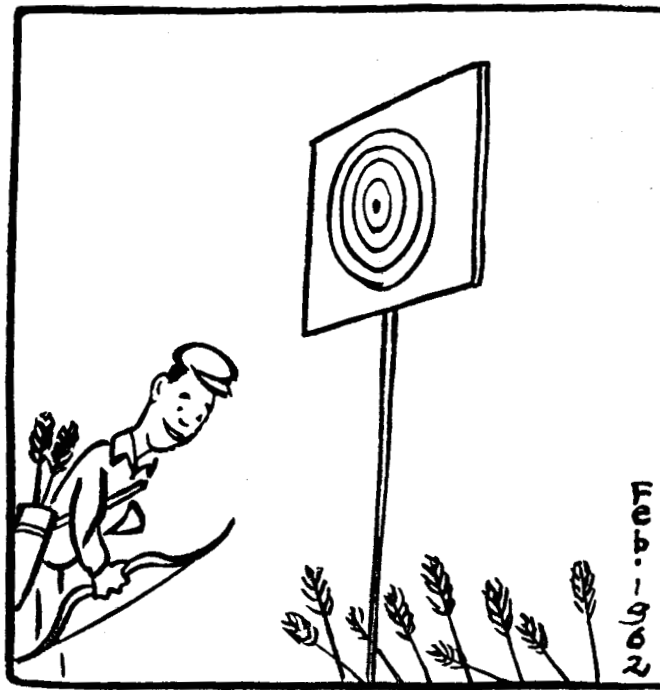
24. Prairie fire



25. Mindless alterations

*The Chinese saying "painting a snake and putting feet on it" aptly describes the over-ornate style of some of our handicrafts.*





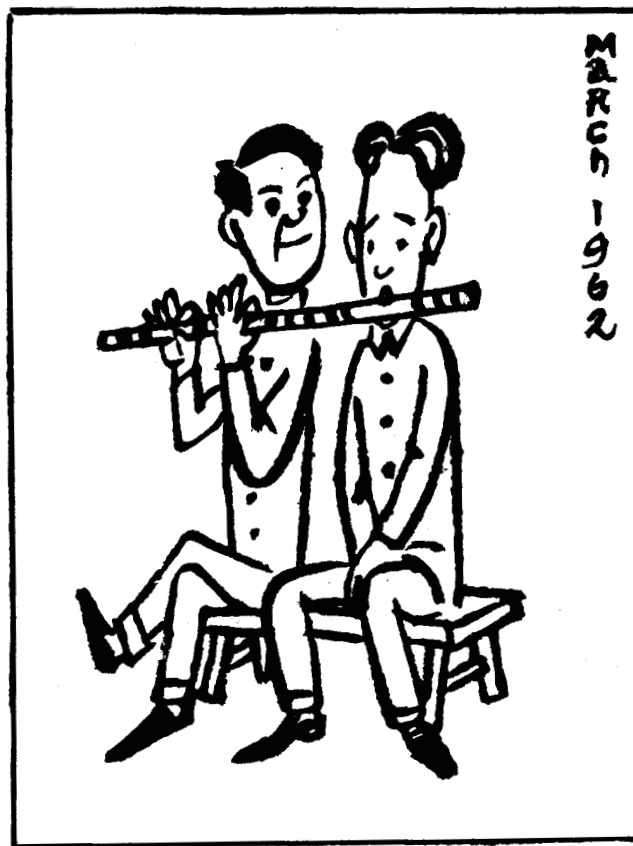
26. Near enough

*"Near enough" is responsible for many failures.*



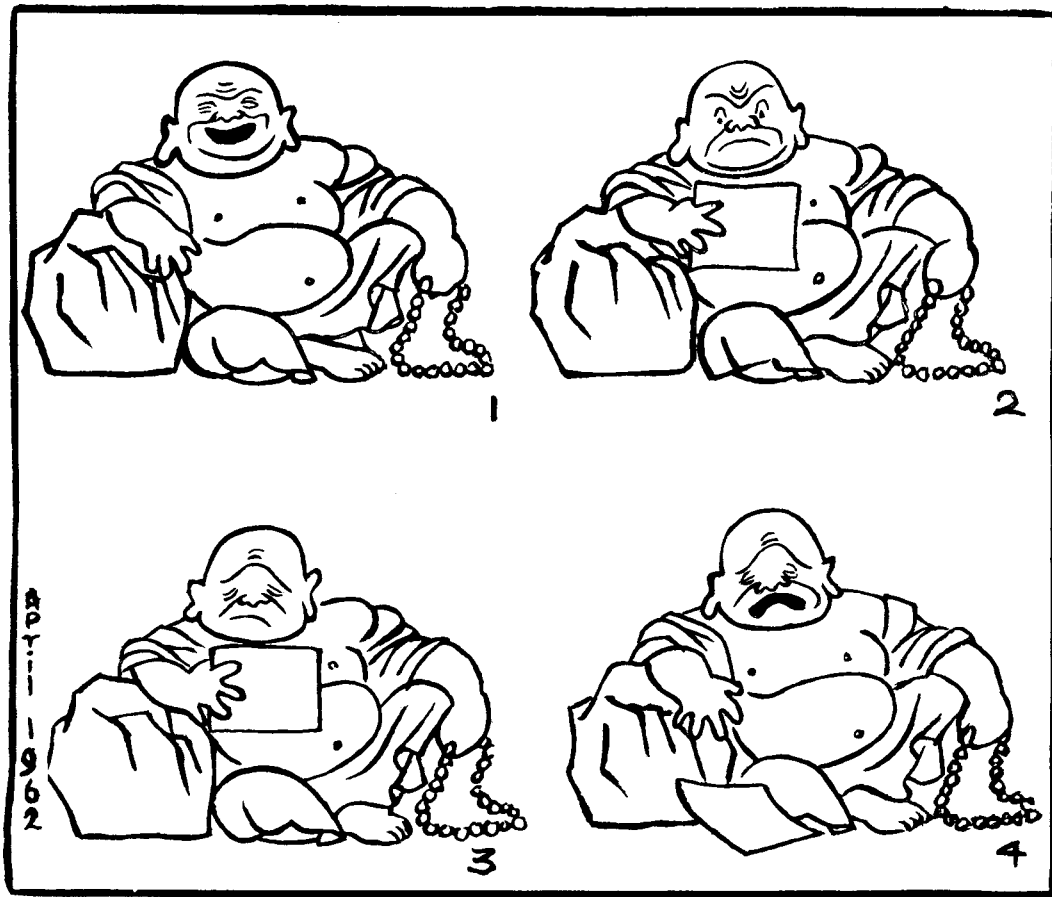
27. Excessive praise

*Certain literary critics indiscriminately lavish praise on all literary works regardless of their quality.*

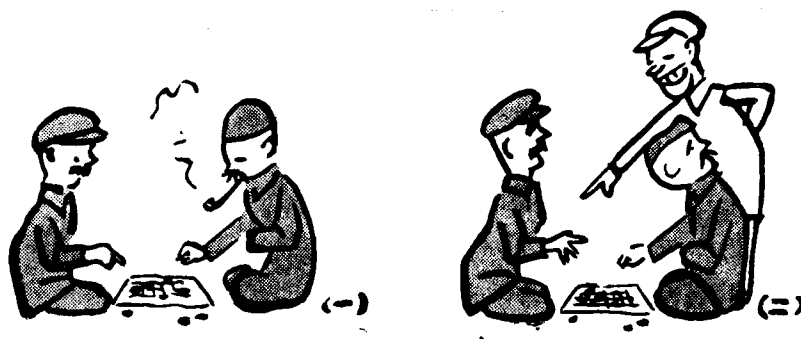


28. Scientific division of labour?

*The scientific division of labour means that two people are not needed to do one person's work. Some people have said that this is a jibe at lack of freedom in the arts. They are wrong.*



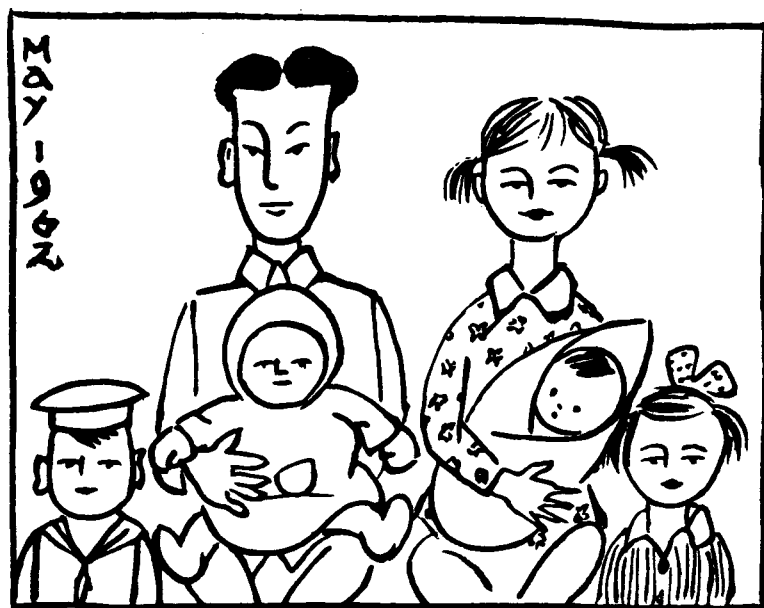
29. The Laughing Buddha looking at cartoons



May 1962

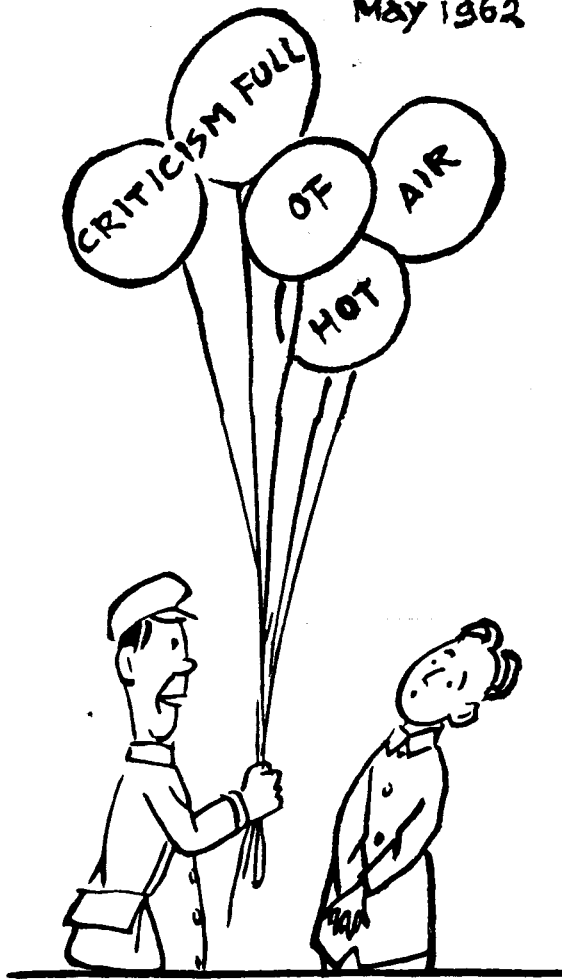
30. Over-zealous kibitzers

*This is what is meant by the old Chinese saying "Jumping over the chopping board and taking the cook's place".*



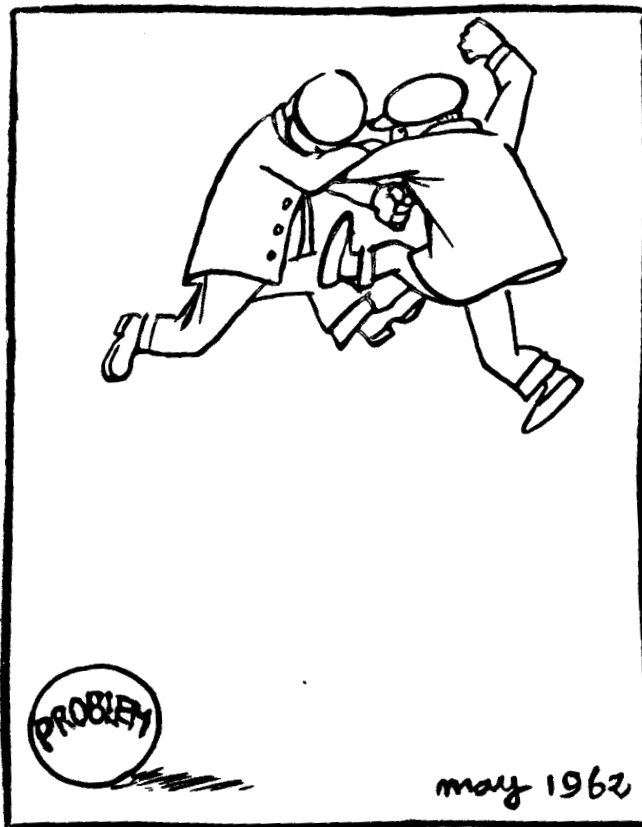
31. A big "little family"  
— worrying about overpopulation

May 1962



32. "What's in them?"  
"Gas."

*We have always been against empty articles.*



33. Play the ball!

*A dig at quarrels that have nothing to do with the issue in question.*





Blocked nose



coughing up  
a bit of  
phlegm



Feeling  
rather overfull  
after a good  
meal



one of my  
teeth is  
bad.



A new spot  
on my face



Not  
sleeping  
well



climbing mountains  
leaves me out of  
breath.



I've still got a  
touch of athlete's  
foot.

may 1962

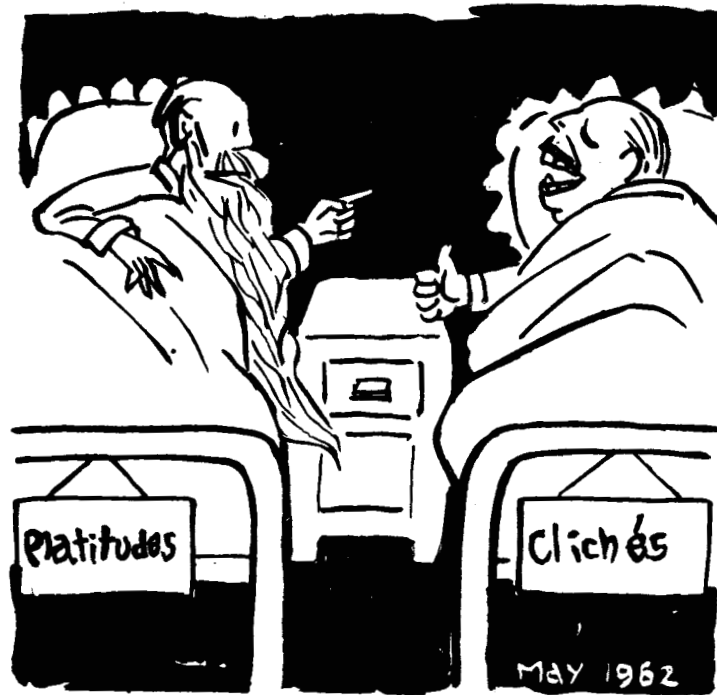
34. Why I can't leave the  
sanatorium

(not an attack on people  
who really need to recu-  
perate)

*Life in the sanatorium is rather a cushy affair for state employees.*



35. The eyes which do not see

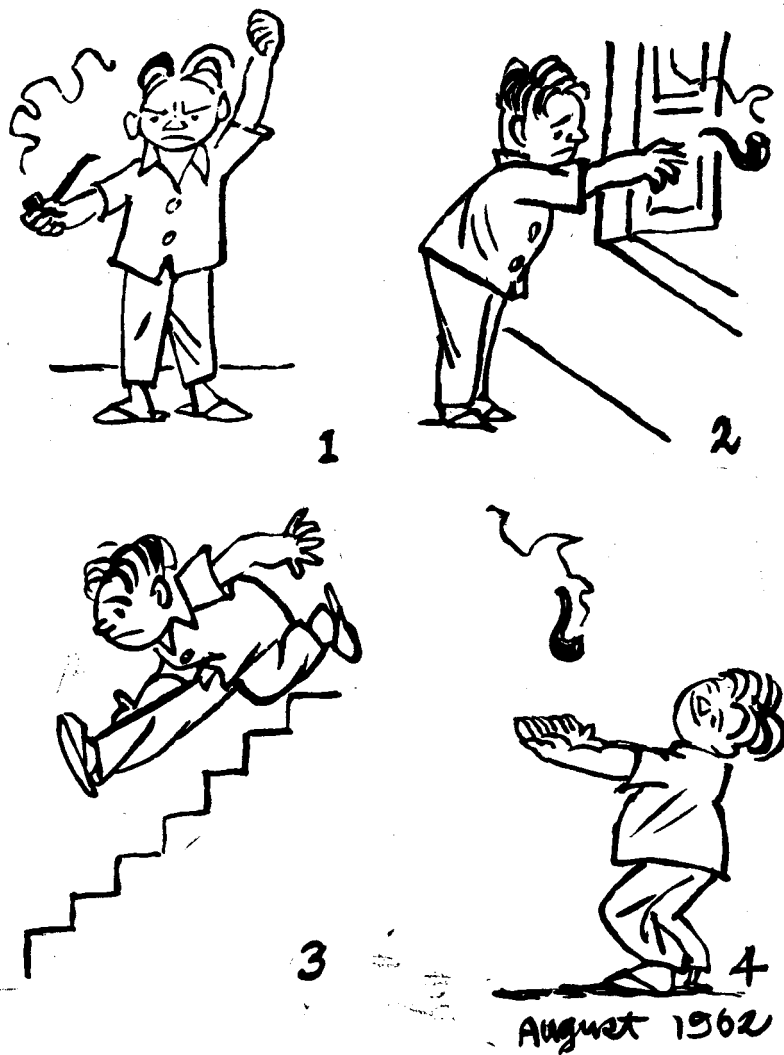


36. It's time for you to retire!



37. Buying a needle

*There is an old Chinese saying that goes "If you want to perfect your skill, grind an iron pestle down to a needle". My aim was to mock an over-fondness for shortcuts. But some readers think that as needles can be bought the great effort involved in grinding down a pestle is a waste of time.*



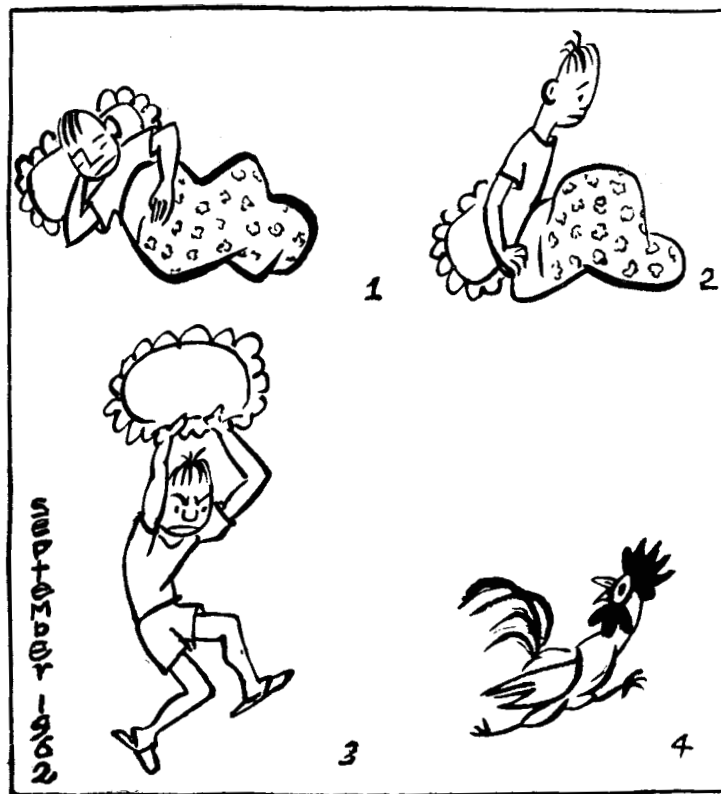
38. Determination

*It hardly needs saying that this does not only refer to giving up smoking.*



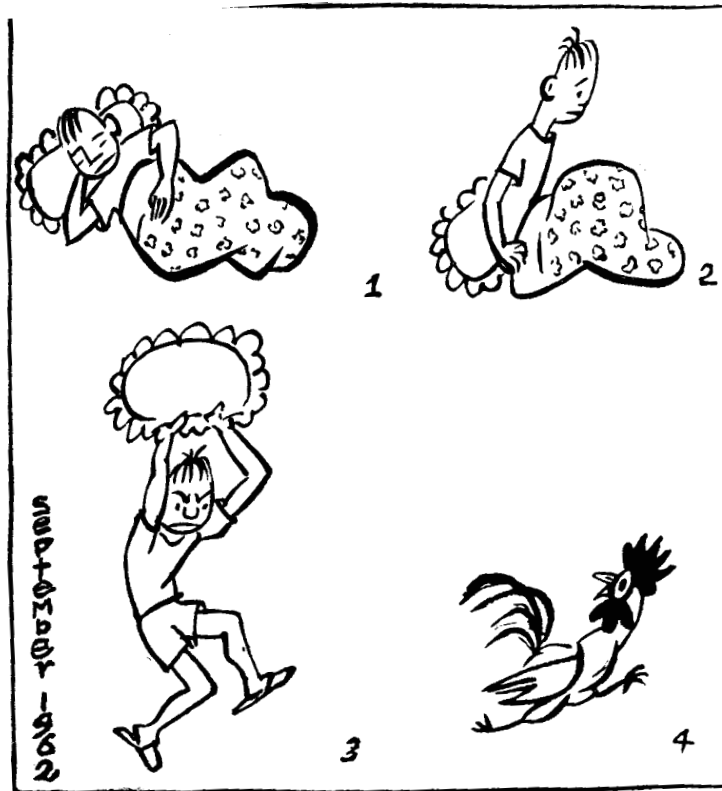
39. Waiting for another hare?

*There is a Chinese story about a man who once saw a hare kill itself by running into a tree and from then on stayed there every day waiting for another hare to kill itself. This is what we now call "opportunism".*



40. Practising swordsmanship at cock-crow

*To strengthen their will-power the ancients used to rise at cock-crow to practise swordsmanship. But some people now resent the cock crowing and disturbing their sweet dreams.*

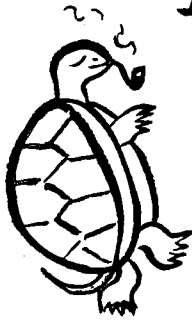


40. Practising swordsmanship at cock-crow

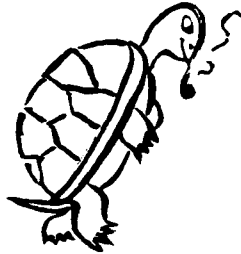
*To strengthen their will-power the ancients used to rise at cock-crow to practise swordsmanship. But some people now resent the cock crowing and disturbing their sweet dreams.*



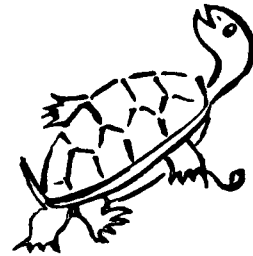
I'm ... sure ... the hare



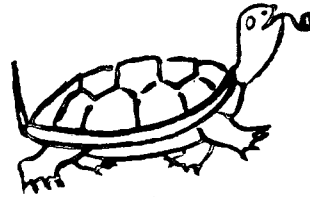
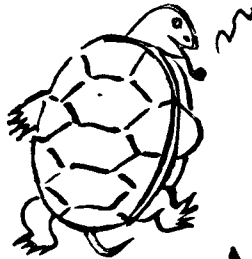
Will ...



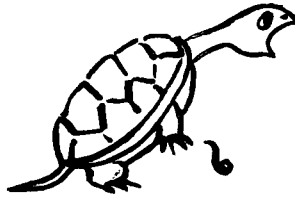
go ...



to ...

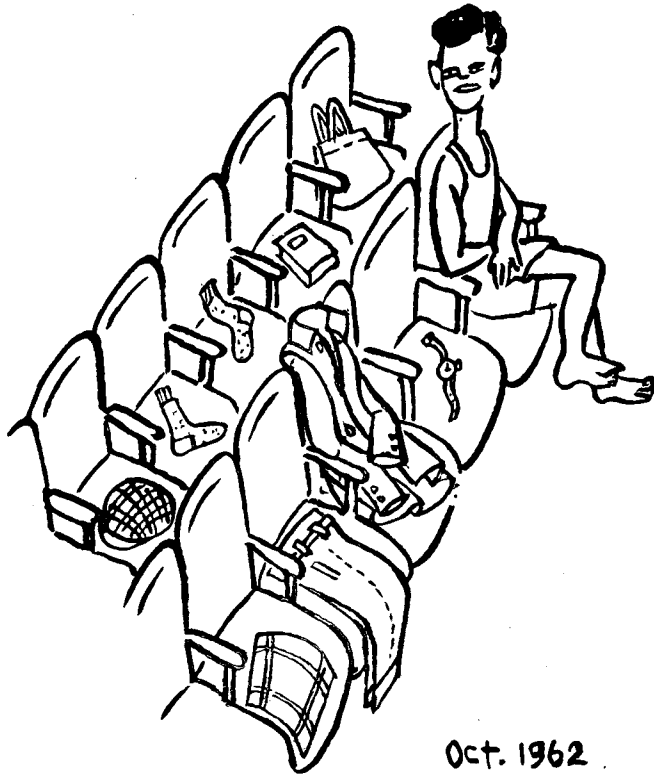


... sleep !!



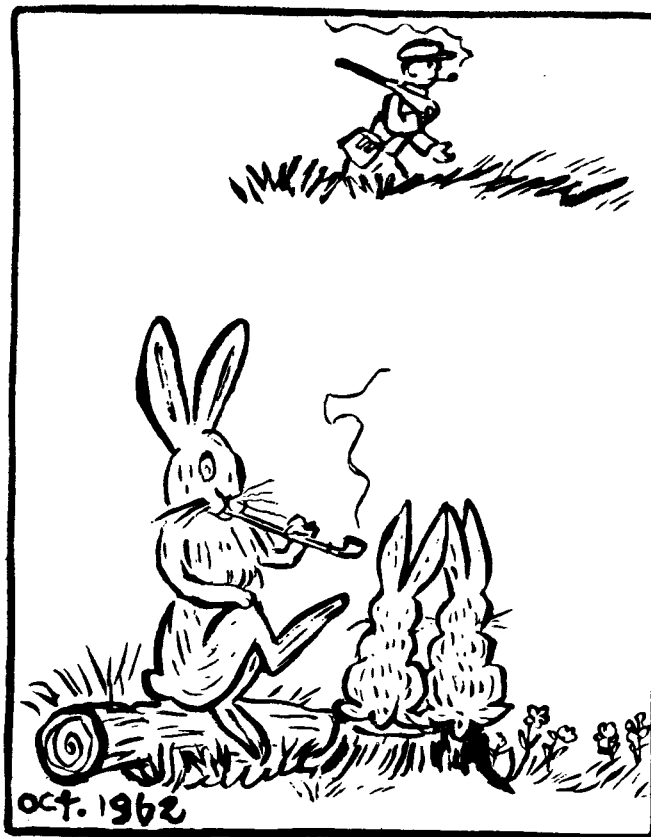
sept. 1962

41. Turning the tables



Oct. 1962

42. How to reserve places



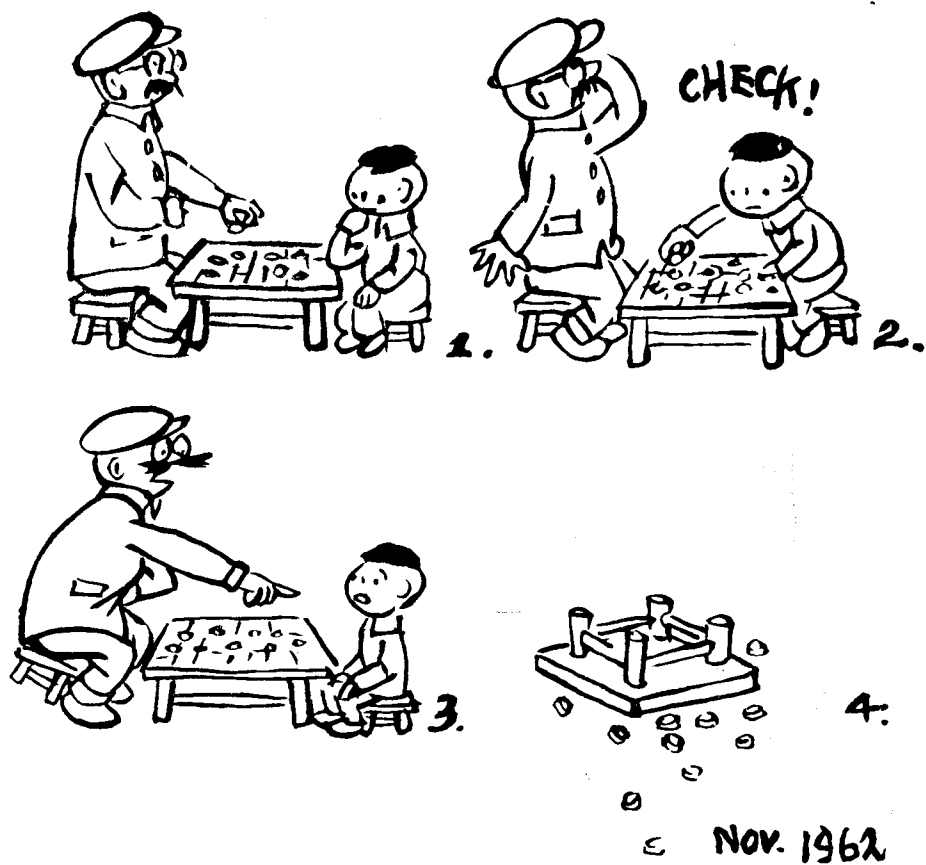
43. "Don't worry: he never does any target practice."

*There's no need to be afraid of people who aren't serious about what they do.*



44. An old song about pretty girls: "She's got two long plaits, dark eyes as well, and when she laughs, it's like a silvery bell . . . ."

*A comment on how stereotyped descriptions crop up over and over again in literature.*

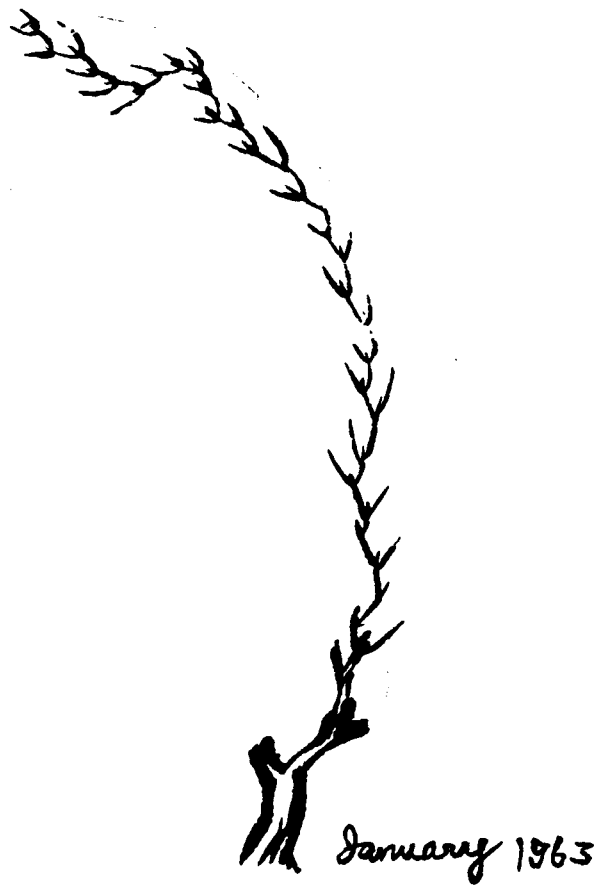


45. Huang Zhong loses his temper

*Huang Zhong was a legendary general in the period of the Three Kingdoms (220-280) who carried on fighting in his old age. Some of our older cadres despise the young, but sooner or later the young will replace them.*

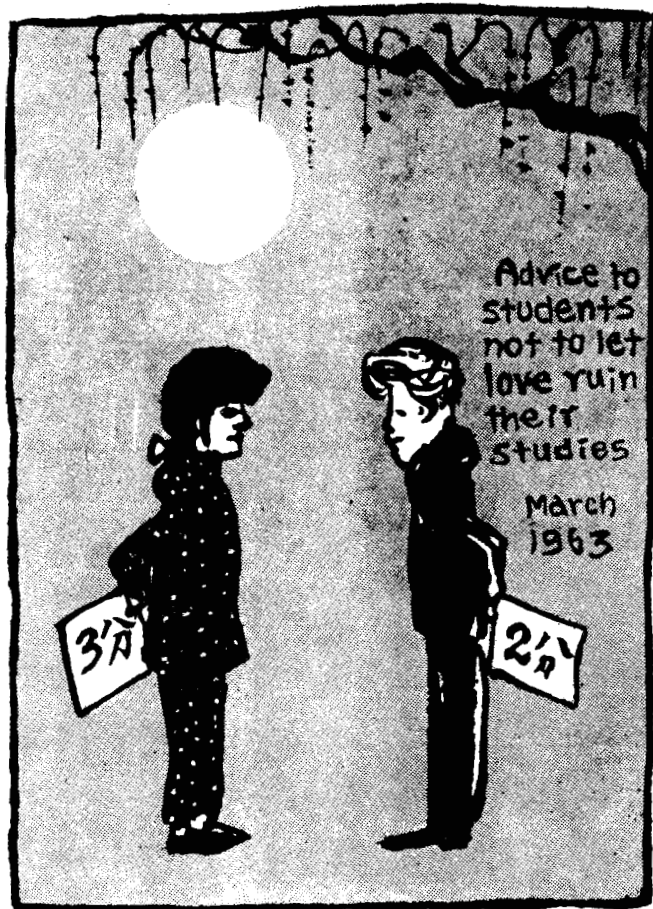


46. When the show's over



47. Not a picture of a tree, but a picture of the way some people talk

*The longer they go on the further they get from the point.*



48.  $2 + 3$  does not equal 5

*In the 1950s and 1960s Chinese schools and colleges used a marking system in which 5 was full marks. Here I was urging students to put their studies first and alluding to the ancient Chinese couplet "When the moon is over the willows, the couple meets in the dusk".*





49. A scene in the park



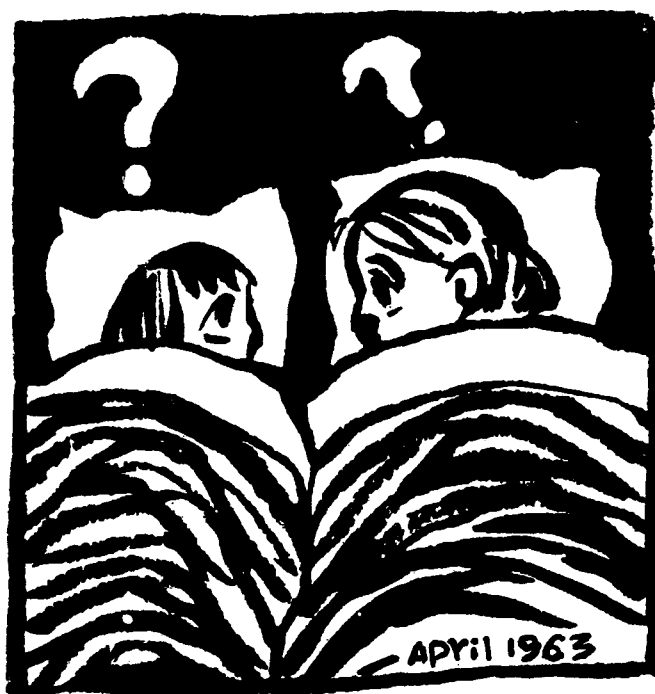
50. "What are you doing?"  
"Waiting till I can sit in its shade."

*There is a Chinese saying "One generation plants trees, a later generation enjoys the shade". Some of us want the shade but won't plant the trees.*



51. Taking root

*Most public telephones in China are not equipped with timing devices. What I'm attacking here is selfishness.*



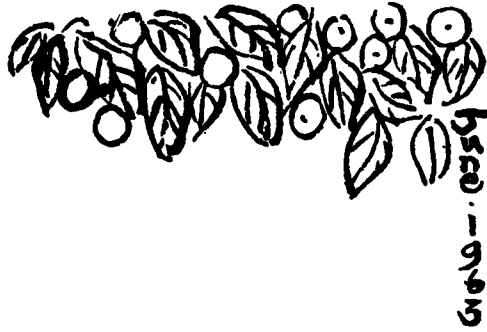
52. "Mum, are there really ghosts?"  
"No."  
"Then why are there ghosts in operas?"  
"?"

*I think that fewer operas which feature the supernatural should be performed.*

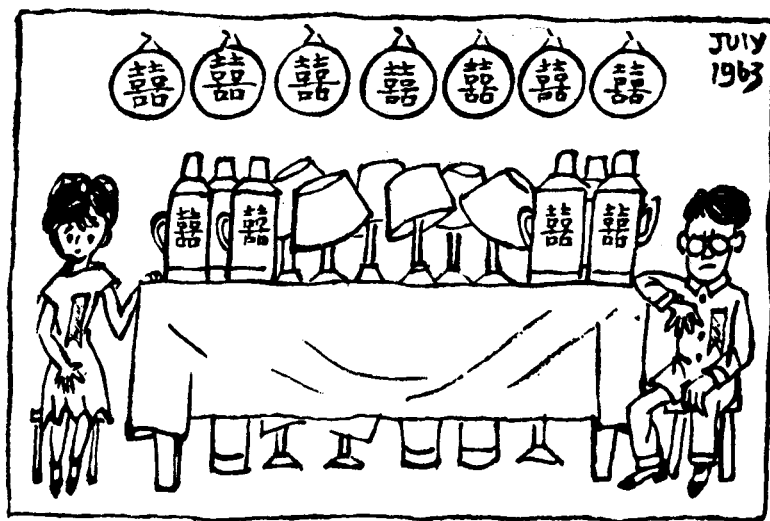


53. Shortcut

*Aimed at those who only seek advantages for themselves.*



54. Waiting for gravity to do its job



55. Nobody minds too many presents

*There is a Chinese saying that nobody minds too many presents, but because such a limited range of products is made, couples get too many identical gifts. 囍 is the "double happiness" symbol displayed at weddings and on wedding gifts.*

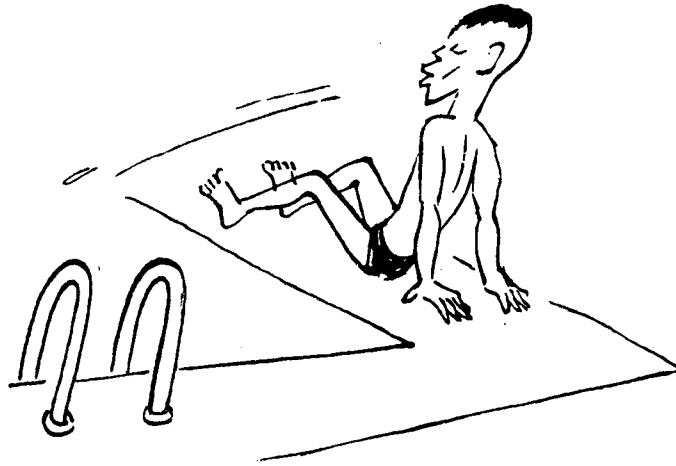


56. Untitled  
— for a certain musician

*We're not against learning from the West, but we don't like  
seeing our own culture run down.*



Aug. 1963

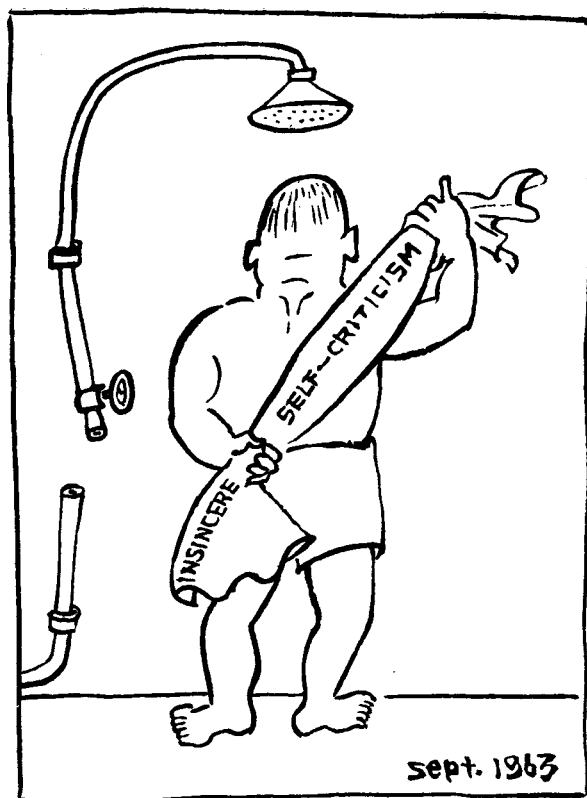


57. What a terrific spittoon!  
(Seen by the swimming pool)

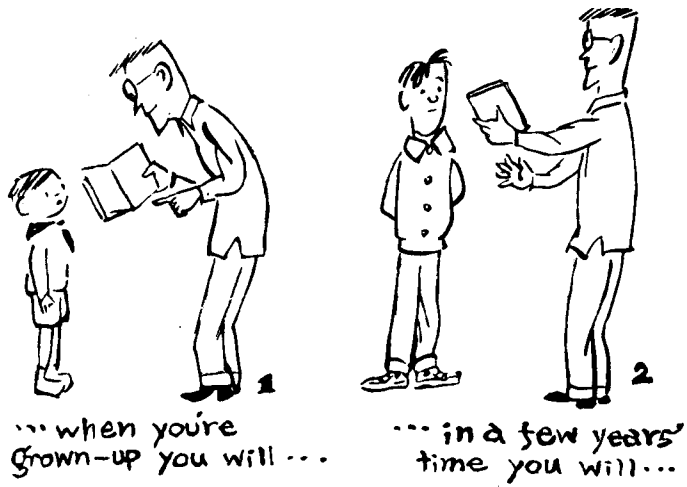
*This cartoon was drawn nearly 20 years ago, but we still need to make people more hygiene-conscious.*



58. Reading medical books



59. Dry-cleaning



60. You won't be able to understand my book right now, but. . .



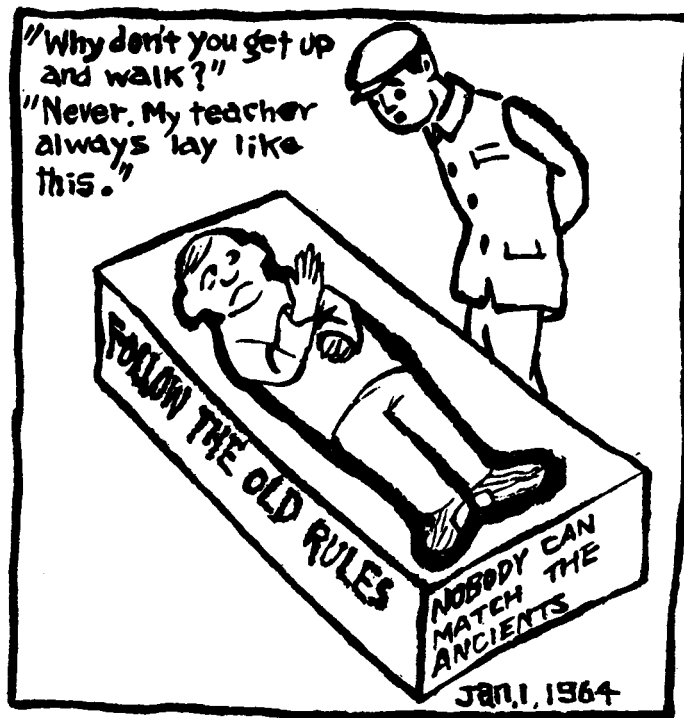
61. Wu Song's last bow

— for audiences who go on and on clapping  
although the performers are exhausted

*Wu Song was one of the heroes of the classical Chinese novel "Outlaws of the Marsh"; he also features in many Chinese operas. Even a hero such as he could not have endured the endless applause of our inconsiderate audiences.*



62. Cat's eyes



63. The cake-mould

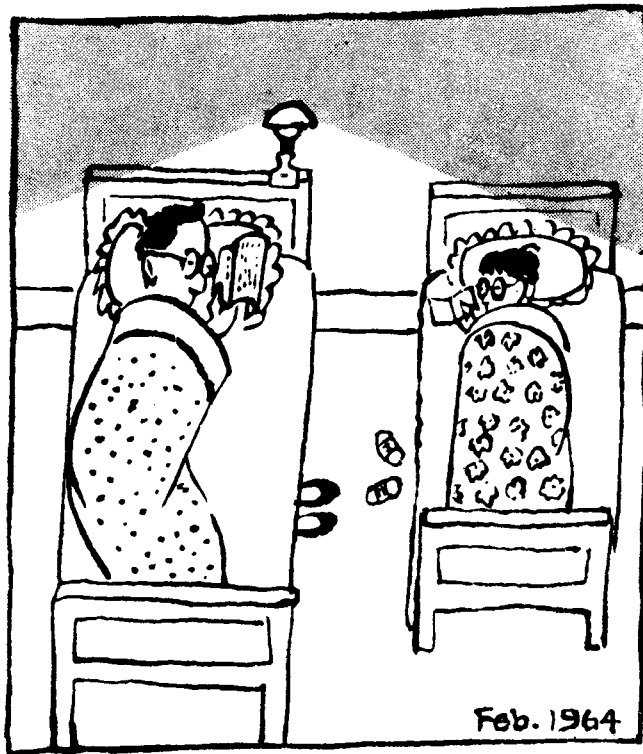
*This is about the way some people stick rigidly to the set rules and "devour the ancient ways without being able to digest them".*



64. Faker in the band  
(not only a dig at some people's exercises)

*In ancient China, a Master Nanguo sat in the orchestra although he could play no instrument. Some people still keep his tradition alive today.*





65. Learning from dad how to be short-sighted

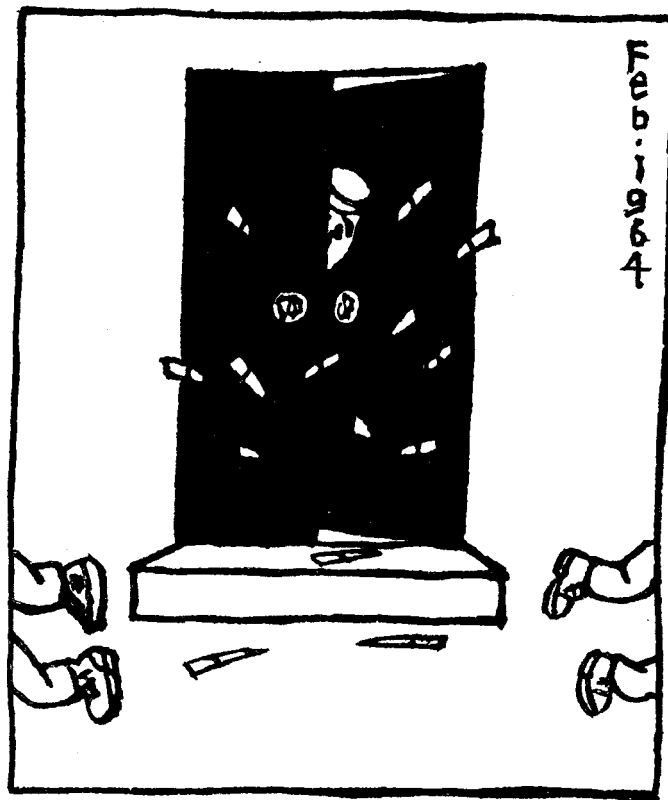
*Parents should set a good example.*



66. Killing time by watching ants fighting

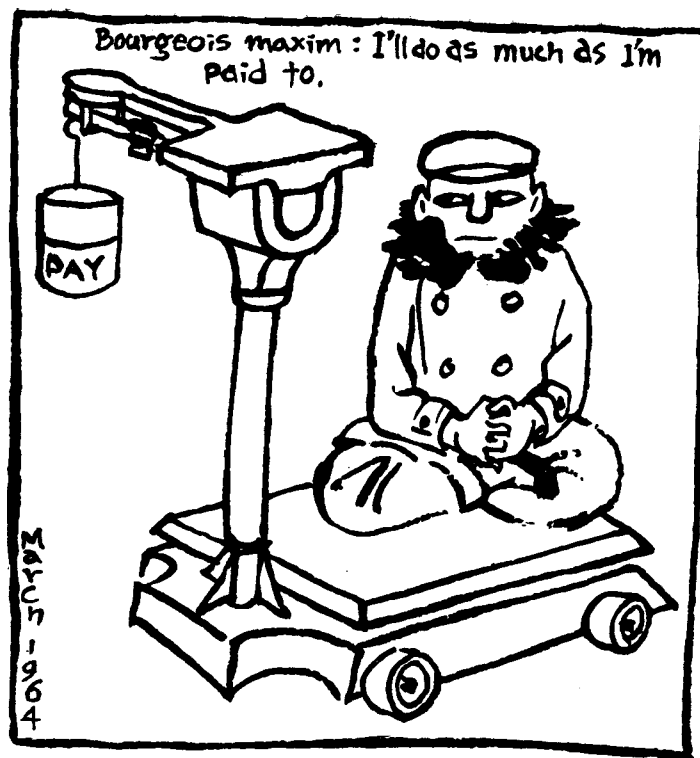


67. Not thinking who you're aiming at



68. "Flying Knives"

*Some films have a big influence on the young. One such in the early 1960s was "Flying Knives", a film about circus knife-throwers.*



69. Treating yourself as a commodity

*In our society people are encouraged not to haggle over their pay.*



Too much flour ... more water... too wet



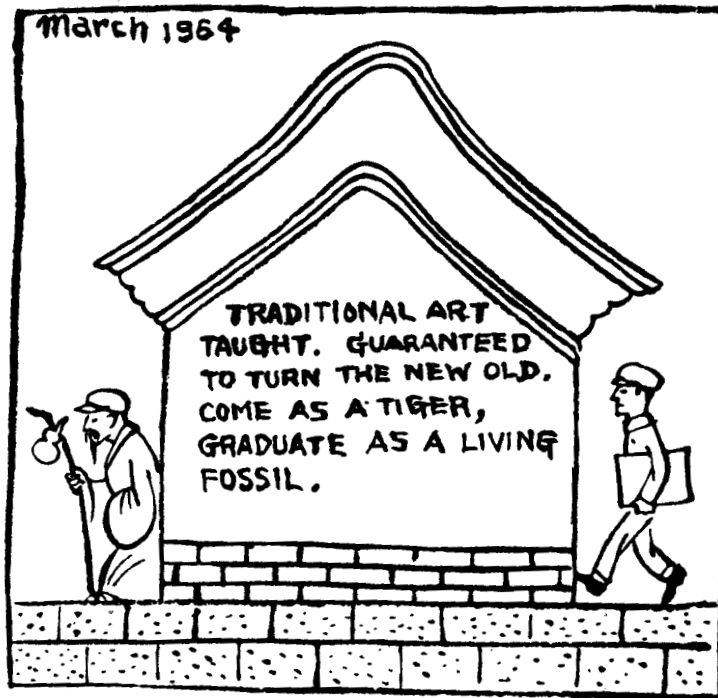
... more flour. Too much again... more water.



Too wet again ... more flour....

March 1964

70. A lack of planning



71. Bringing forth the old

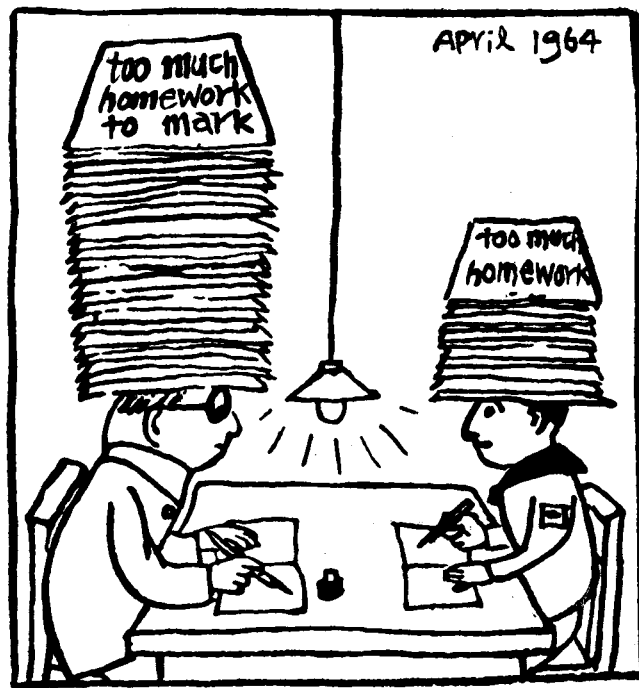
*What our culture needs is to weed through the old to bring forth the new. Some conservatives try to do the exact opposite.*



72. What can be gained from listening to a speech

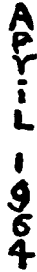
*Such things happen in China. Whether they also do abroad  
I don't know for sure.*



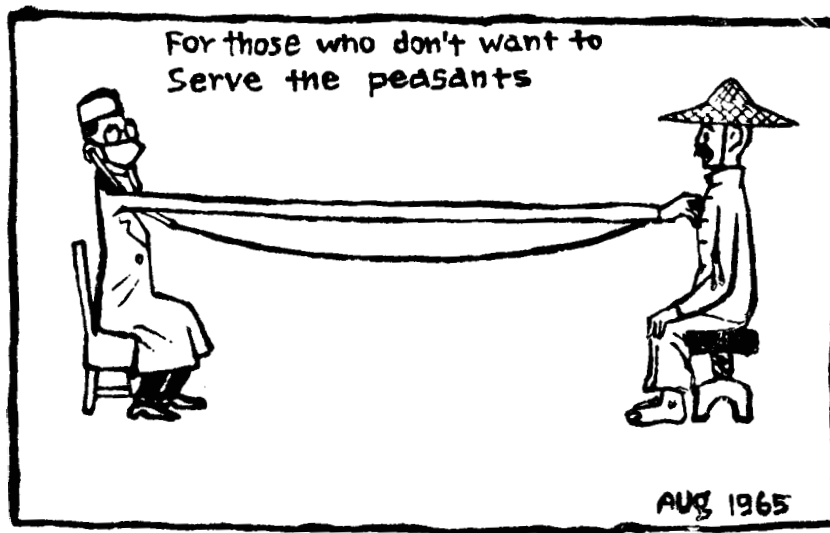


73. Schoolteacher father: "Why haven't you gone to bed yet?"  
Schoolboy son: "Why haven't you?"

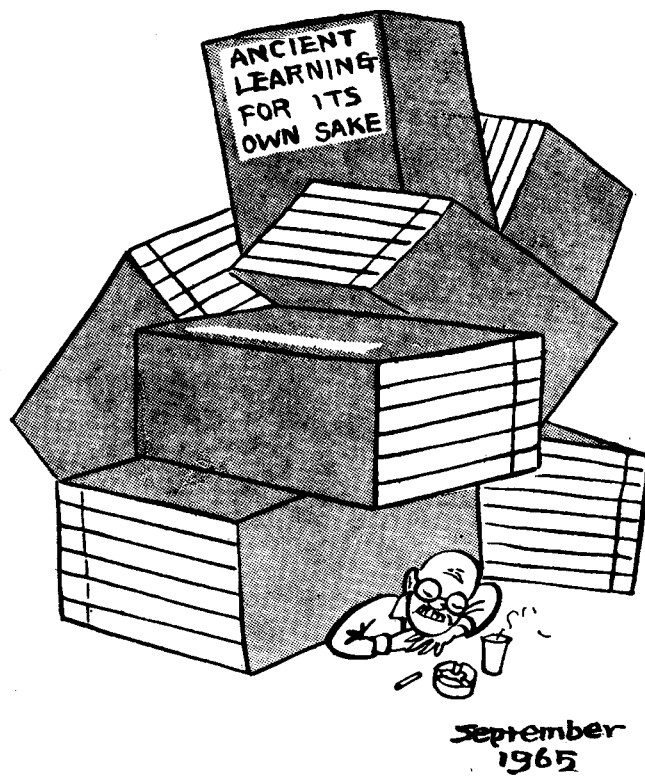
*The result of the one-sided pursuit of a high pass rate in examinations for further schooling.*



- Hygiene is all very well, but . . .*

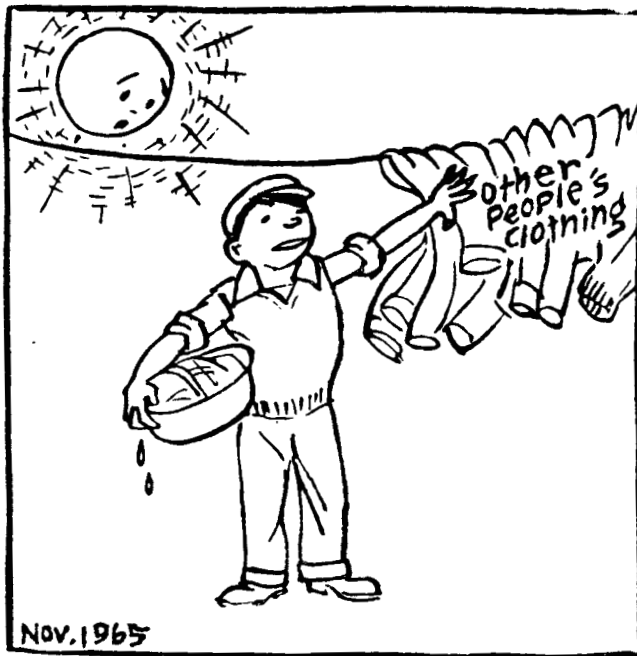


75. The emotional gap



76. Baromania  
— a morbid love of being crushed.

*A dig at people who can't digest ancient things.*



77. Individualism on the clothes-line

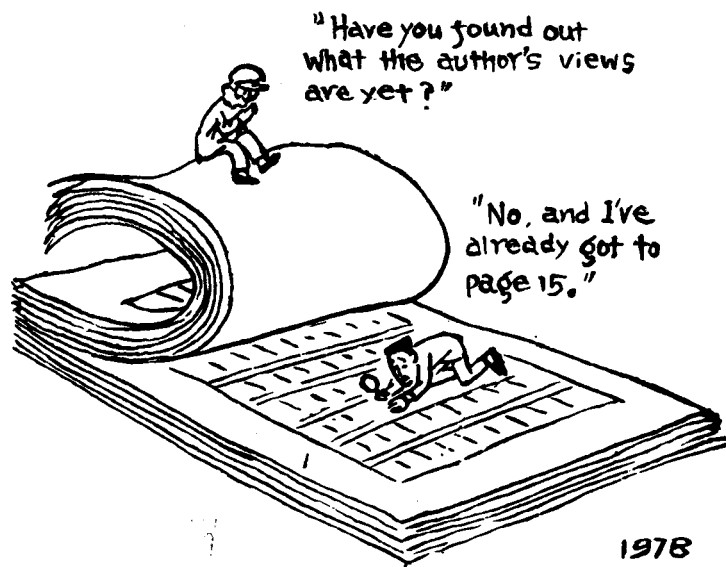


78. "What are you looking at?"  
"The bookshelves."

*Some Chinese bookshops don't do enough to help customers.*



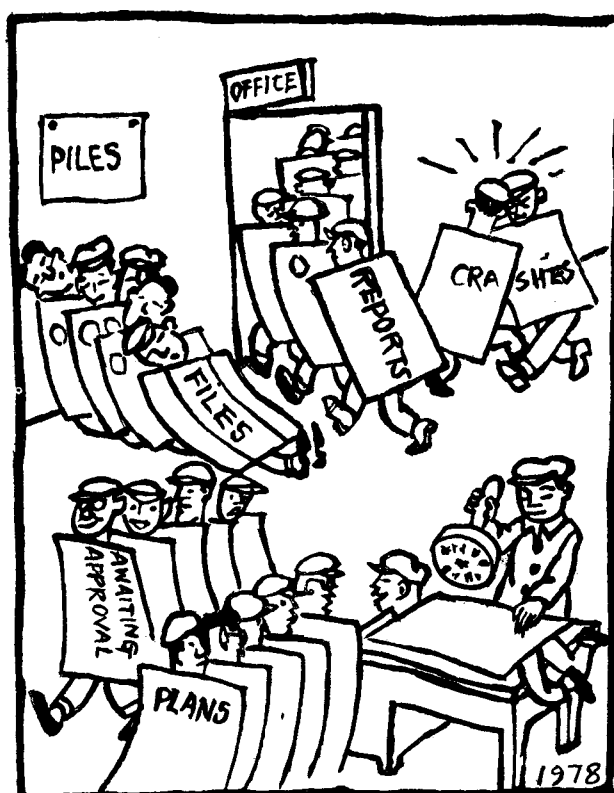
79. Eating from the same pot



80. Surveying

*A jibe at articles that stray many miles from the subject.*





81. The Long Long Road for Official Documents

Verses by Chi Bei'ou

Long is the journey for government files,  
 Many the pass to cross once they begin.  
 Work it all out and it's thousands of miles,  
 From when they first wait to be stamped and signed in.  
 They get used to queuing and living in piles,  
 As they wait to be marked with a bureaucrat's ring.

Just see how everything's ordered and neat;  
 Following procedures is really a treat.  
 They move up and down from layer to layer,  
 Any one in a hurry will meet a delayer.  
 All they can do is to sigh and to sob:  
 How will they ever get on with the job?

*This is part of the bureaucratism that has been handed down  
 to us from the past.*

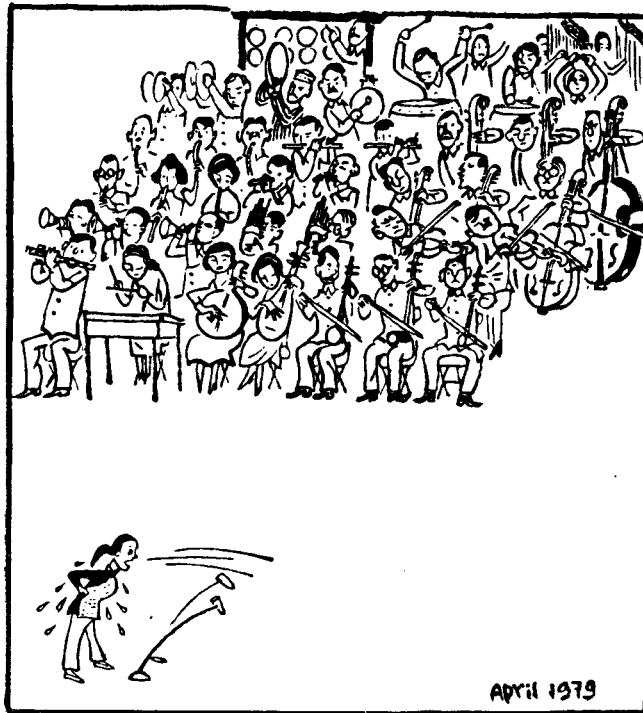


Unanimously agreed: "We are afraid of the daylight, we steal melons, we don't fight against poisonous snakes, we don't embrace each other, and we are prickly. But we aren't cartoonists."

April 1979

82. The hedgehogs' conference

*Satirizing certain satirical writers and cartoonists.*



83. One against a hundred

*Satirizing the tendency of musicians to use orchestras that are too big.*



84. Education through ice-llolies

— drawn on the eve of Children's Day (June 1), 1979

*There are two traditions of education: the rod and the "sweets bribe". From childhood we teach children the meaning of the carrot and the stick.*



85. The barber who is not doing his job

*A comment on the bureaucrats among us.*



AUG. 1979

86. Portrait of the man whose word is law

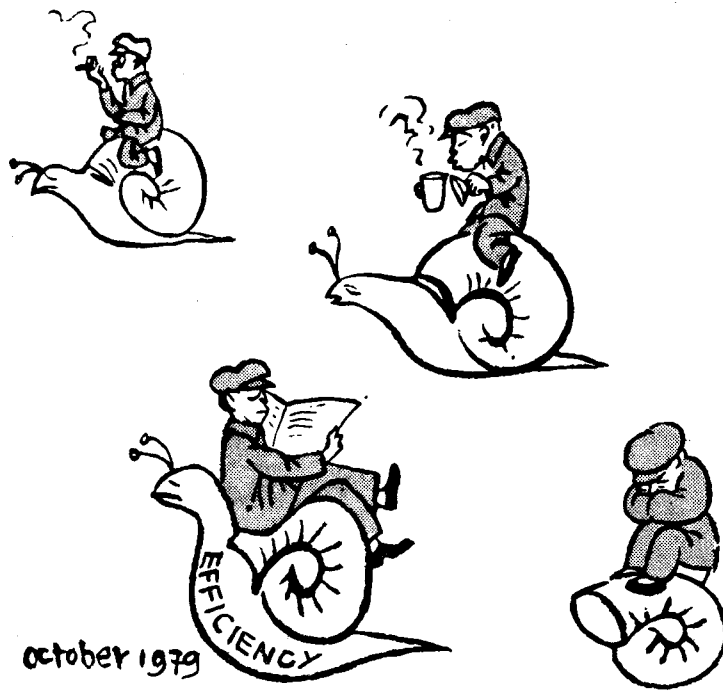
*There is a Chinese saying: "You can't touch a tiger's backside". We believe in democracy, not in one man's word being law.*



87. Adding salt

*"Comrade, why are you putting salt on your paper?"*  
*"This article's got no flavour."*

*It goes without saying that this is not an exclusively Chinese phenomenon.*



88. Slowness race



NOV. 1979



Trial smoking



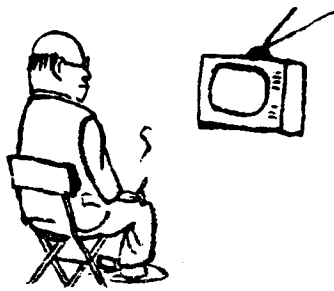
Trial drinking



Trial fitting



Trial wearing



Trial viewing



Trial walking



Trial burning?

89. On a trial basis

*It is sometimes the practice in China for certain companies and individuals to give away state-owned merchandise on a "trial" basis in order to obtain illicit favours in return. This is actually nothing more than a poorly disguised form of graft.*

It was a dig at some of our comrades who are so afraid of making mistakes and getting themselves into trouble that they do as little work as possible or even none at all. They don't seem to realize that not working means eating the people's millet and doing nothing in return, which is in itself the worst possible mistake.

If a child is so scared of falling over when he walks that he never to and to rest of his life in swaddling clothes, he may live to be seventy or eighty but he'll certainly be regarded as a freak.



90. If you never walk you'll never fall over



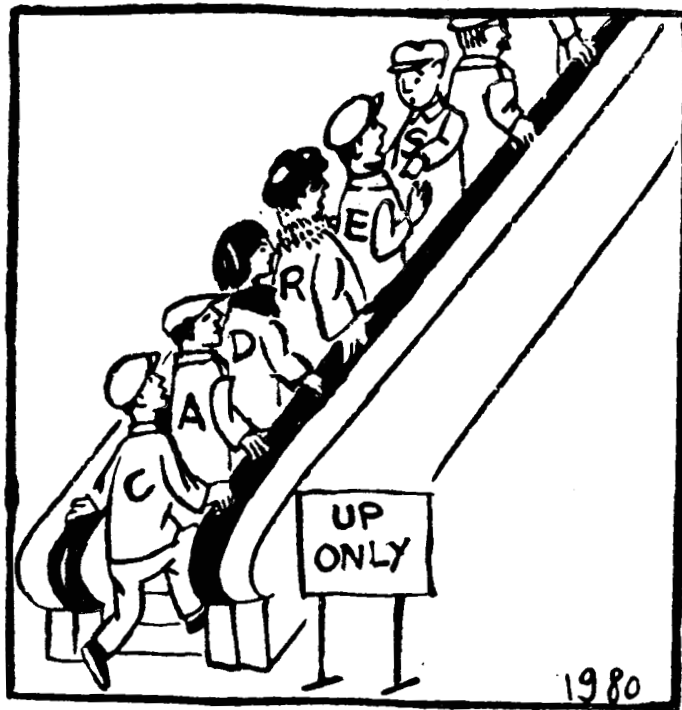
## 91. Cooking Jiaozi

Verses by Chi Bei'ou

Crowded with people who've little to do,  
 The young and the old and the middle-aged too,  
 Some of them senior, some of them not.  
 Those connoisseurs like to drink their tea hot.  
 Some tell their jokes and some read the news;  
 Some play chess or knit; some take a long snooze;  
 Some drink their medicine; some have a good moan.  
 It fills in the hours till its time to go home.

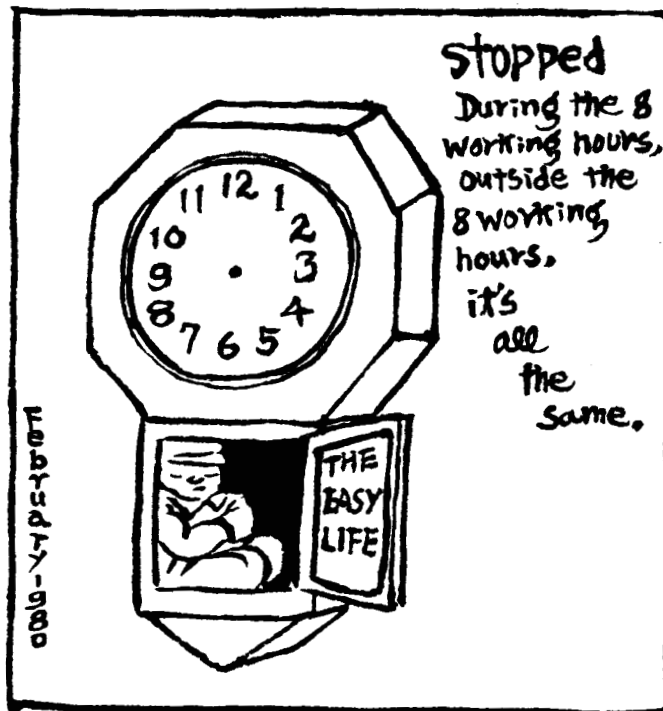
Within a 20-metre lap the baton's often passed;  
 Each document is copied out by at least five separate hands.  
 The privies are all occupied by squatters who won't piss;  
 Those who really want to work can only idle stand.  
 Modernization will have to wait,  
 Till overmanning has been put straight.

*We compare an overcrowded swimming-pool to "cooking jiaozi". Jiaozi are Chinese-style ravioli, which we boil in a pot. It's a very accurate comparison. Here we've borrowed it as a metaphor for the overmanning of some government offices.*



92. Automatic escalator

*To save electricity, most escalators in China go up only.*



93. Stopped



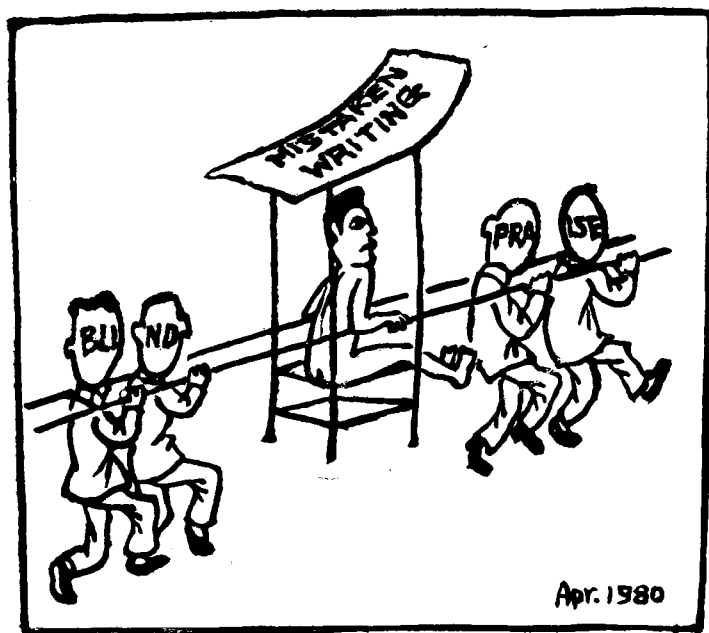
94. "Where's the fire?"

*Criticizing the attitude of only caring about the interests of one's own work unit.*



95. The monkey's complaint

*1980 was the Year of the Monkey.*



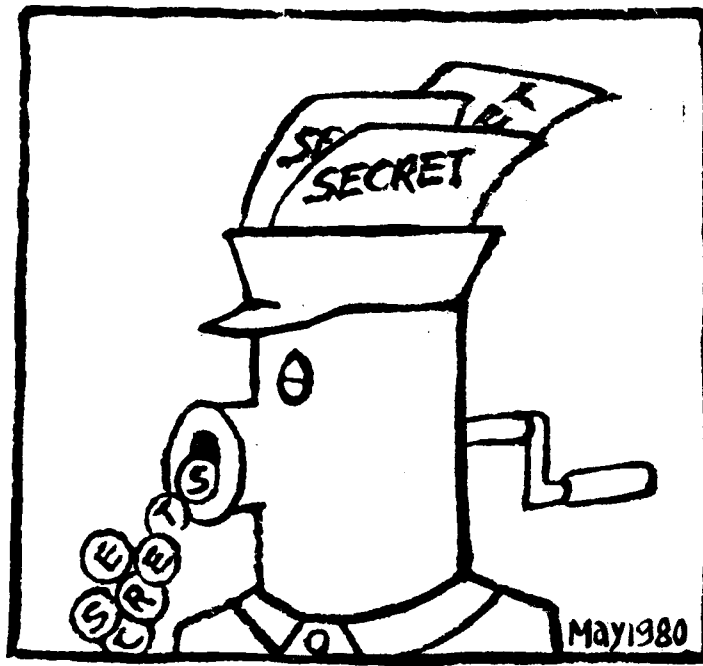
96. The Emperor's New Clothes

*If you have read the Hans Christian Andersen story you will get the point.*



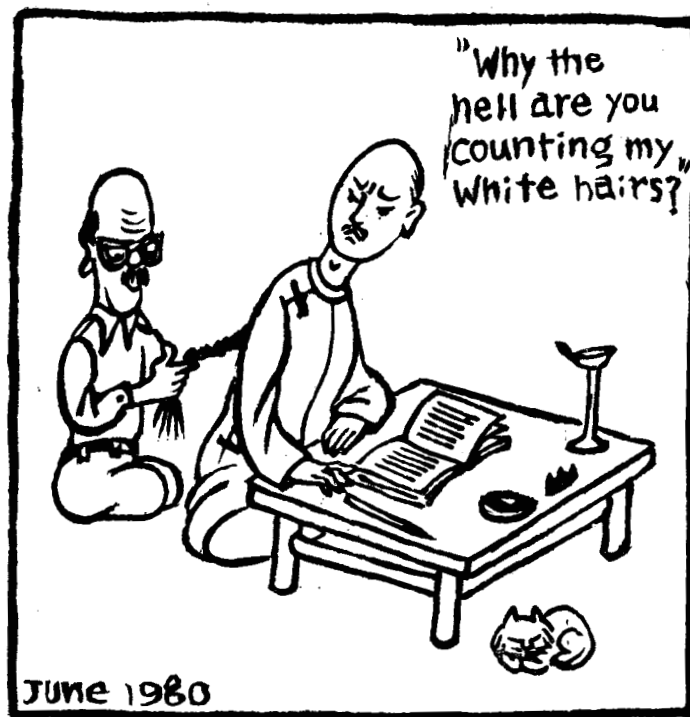


97. "Whatever style of boxing is that?"  
    "'Feeling the mood of the leadership' boxing."



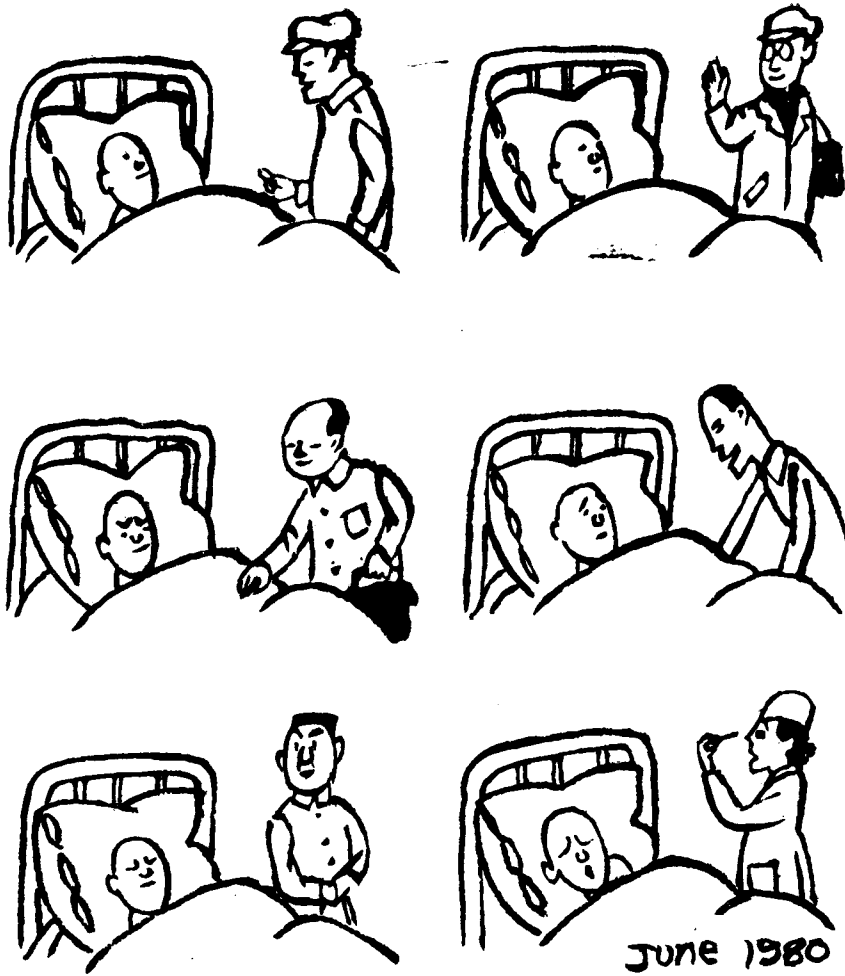
98. The mincing machine

*State secrets go in at one end and come out at the other.*



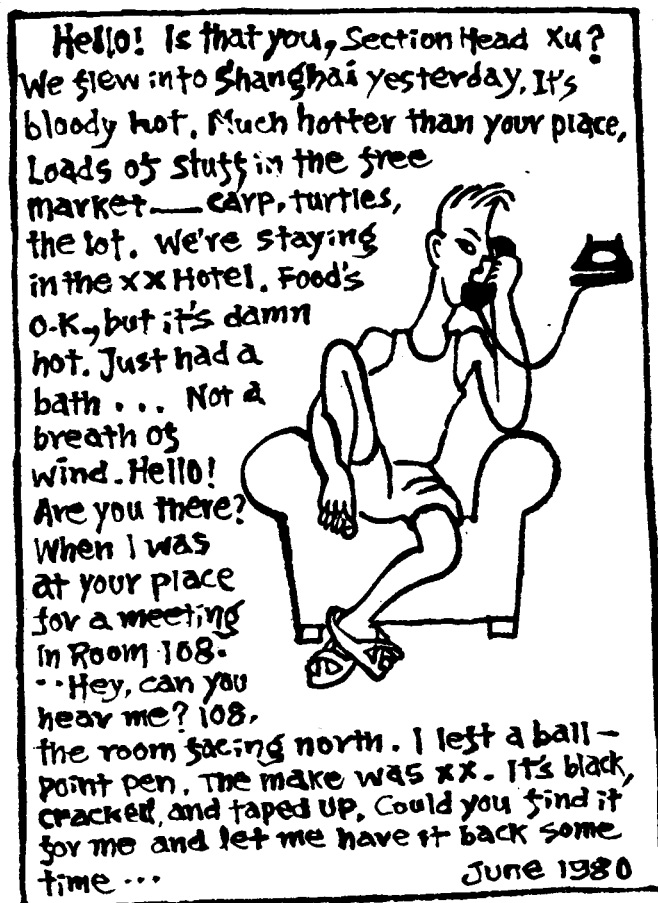
99. Cao Xueqin's protest

*An objection to some scholars who engage in trivial pedantry over the 18th-century writer Cao Xueqin and his great novel "A Dream of Red Mansions."*



100. "Take it easy"; "Take it easy" to the point of exhaustion.

*The motives are good, and the results appalling.*



101. A long-distance call at public expense



102. The race between the hare and the tortoise  
— latest version

*We oppose the bureaucratic way of running state-owned business, which avoids competition and crawls along at tortoise speed.*



103. The Foolish Old Man decides to dig up the foothills of feudalism

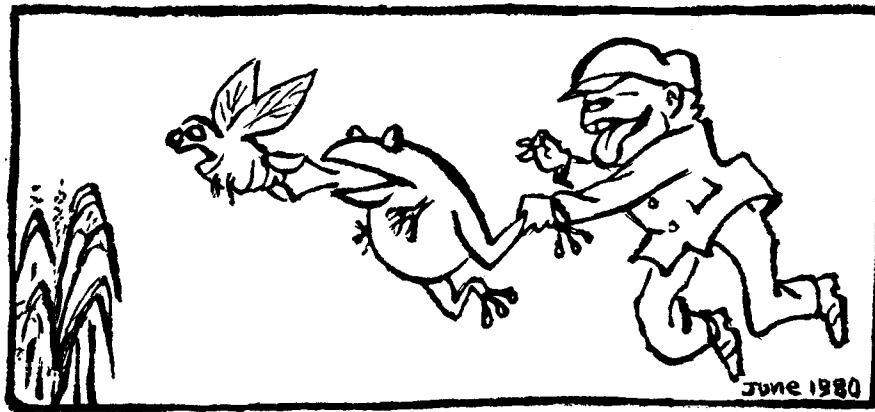
*"My word is law" is a style of leadership that survives from feudal society. Although the Foolish Old Man dug up the mountain of feudalism (see Mao Zedong's "How the Foolish Old Man Moved the Mountain") he also has to dig up its foothills.*



104. The cat is cousin to the tiger

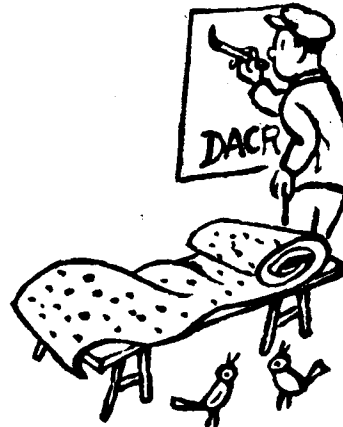
*A criticism of some young writers who won't accept criticism. The saying has it that you can't touch the tiger's backside. These days the same goes for cats.*





105. A summer thought

*The ecological balance?*



$$\frac{1}{3} \bigg/ \frac{2}{4}$$



June 1980

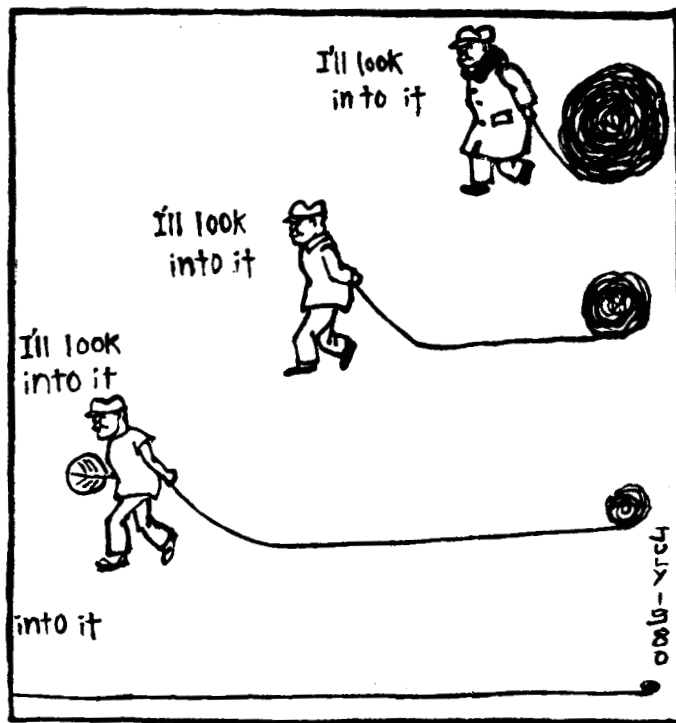
106. Market psychology

Prompted by some illegible  
signatures



107. A test for Wang Xizhi

*Wang Xizhi was a great Chinese calligrapher of the 4th century A.D. A jibe at those people who sign their names in an unrecognisable manner.*



108. Can you drag it out any further?

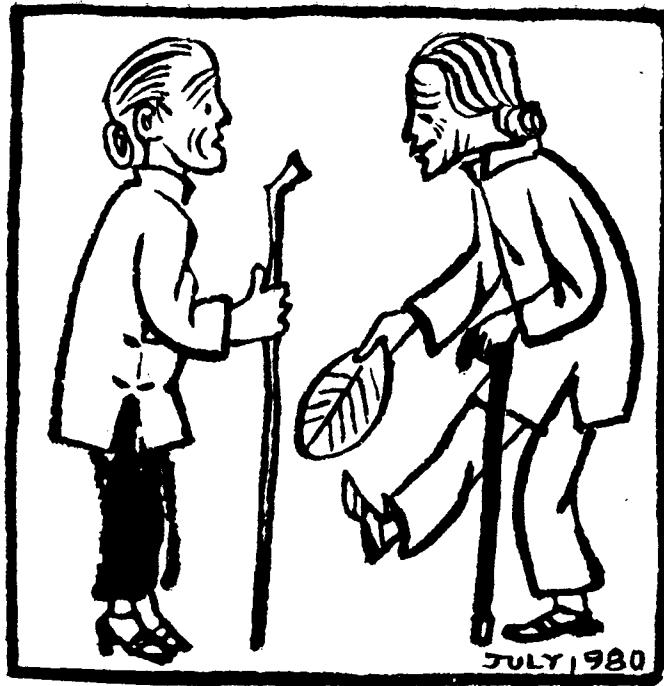
*Another manifestation of bureaucracy.*



JULY 1980

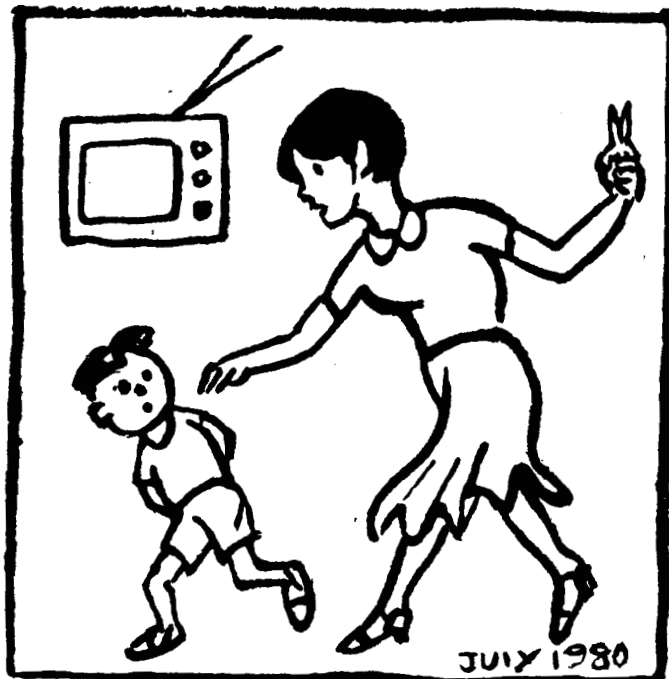
109. Climbing the pole

*Leaders high and low must watch out for this type.*



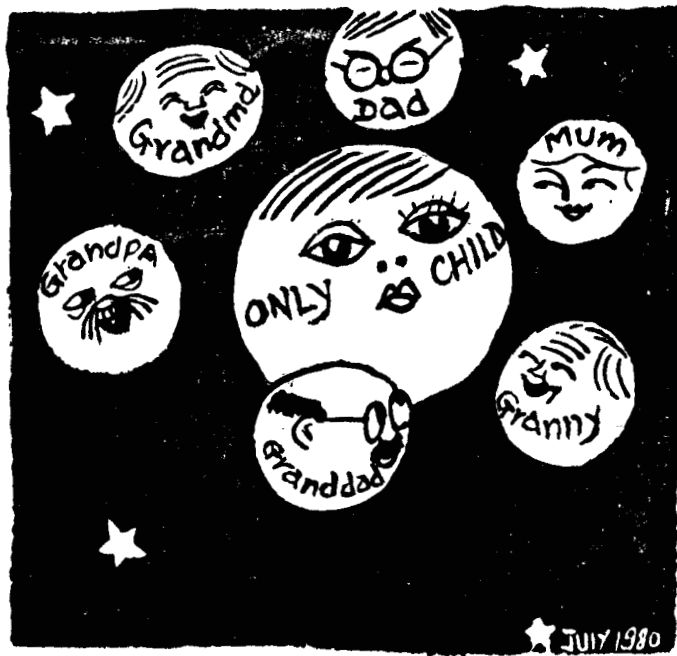
110. "How did you get those low-heeled sandals?"  
"By paying the cobbler 20 cents to remove  
the high heels."

*Old ladies in China are not used to wearing high heels like  
old ladies in the West. But at one time all women's shoes  
were produced with high heels.*



111. "I don't want them cut. There was someone on television the other day with fingernails several feet long."

*We really have to be careful about television's influence on the young.*



112. Revolving round the sun?

*Family planning in China is essential; but bringing up only children presents new problems.*



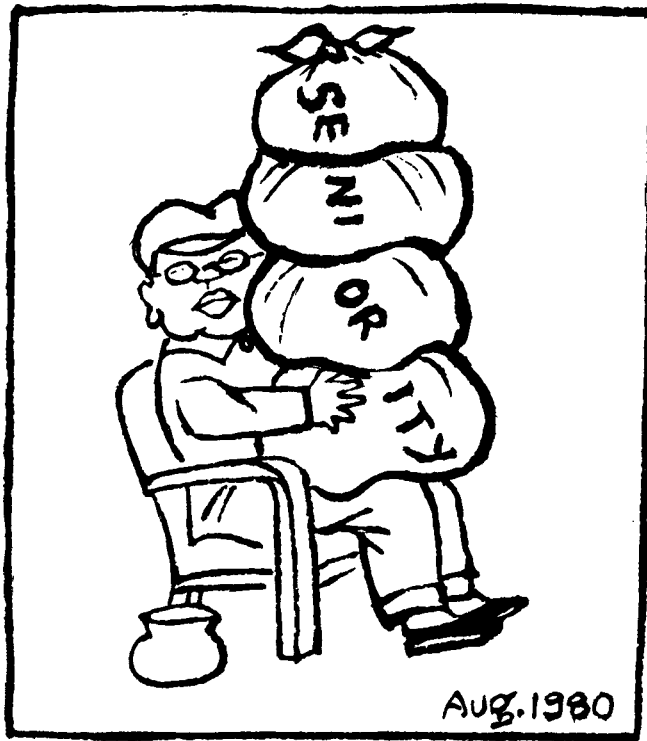


113. Coaching in the "fine" arts.



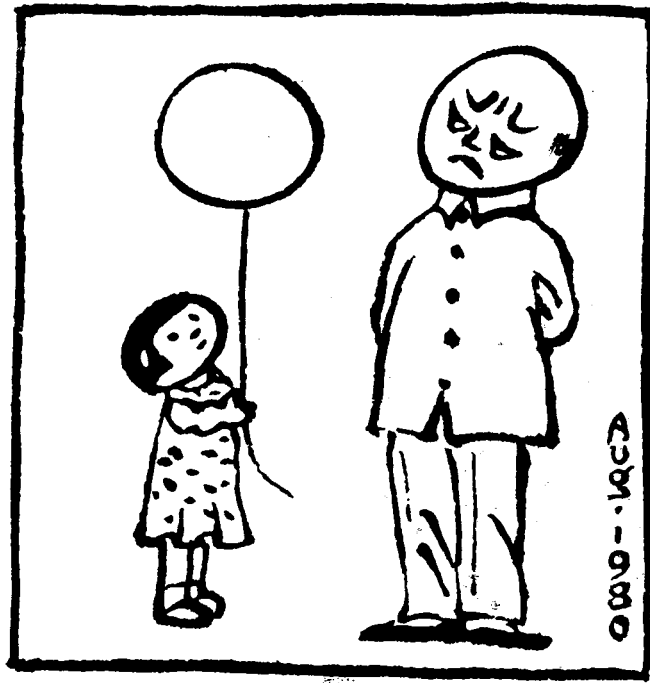
114. Watermelon tyranny

*We oppose bureaucratic ways of running businesses.*



115. If you're carrying too much you can't give up your seat

*China is now tackling the problem of an ageing leadership. At present, however, some cadres still place an unreasonable emphasis on seniority.*



116. Suspicion



117. The Stolen Dress Dance

*Stealing other people's creations only makes one look even more of a fool.*



When your feet are too small, blaming the shoes for being too big.



Taking out insomnia on a pillow for being too hard.



Resenting the buffalo's failure to appreciate one's elevated music.



Blaming the brick wall for obstructing the way.

118. Objective reasons (1)



If you trip over it's  
the fault of the stone  
in the road.



If you scald your  
tongue it's because  
the water's too hot.

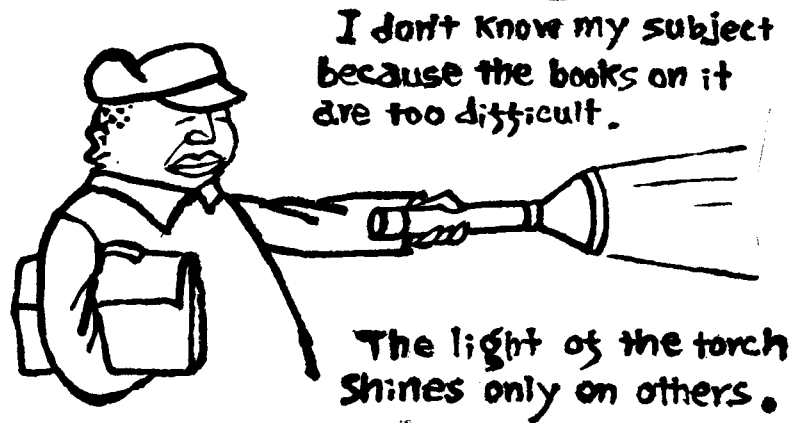


If you're ill it's  
because the medicine's  
too bitter.



Good advice is  
too unpleasant to  
listen to.

119. Objective reasons (2)



1980

120. Objective reasons (3)

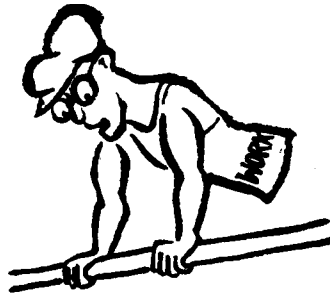




April 1981

121. The new-style Red Ribbon Dance

*It is a bureaucratic practice to draw non-committal red circles on documents in order to put off making decisions.*

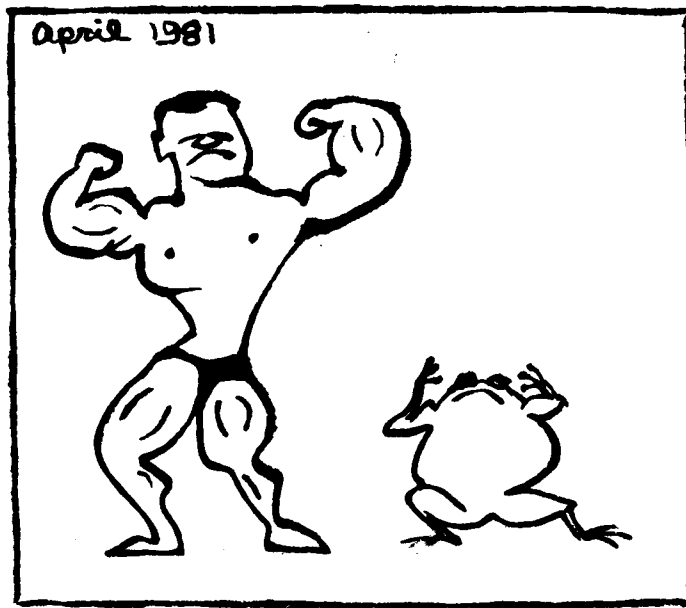


122. Go up there if you like; I'm staying here. (not a dig at athletes)

*A dig at the bureaucratic way in which some of us argue over trivialities instead of cooperating.*



123. The volunteer accompanist at the concert

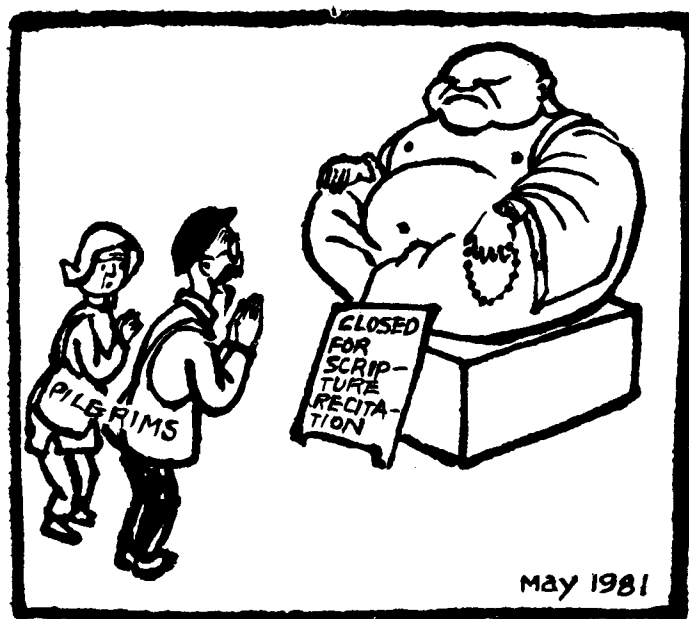


124. Strength but not beauty



125. Unemployed woodpeckers

*There has been too much reckless felling of trees.*



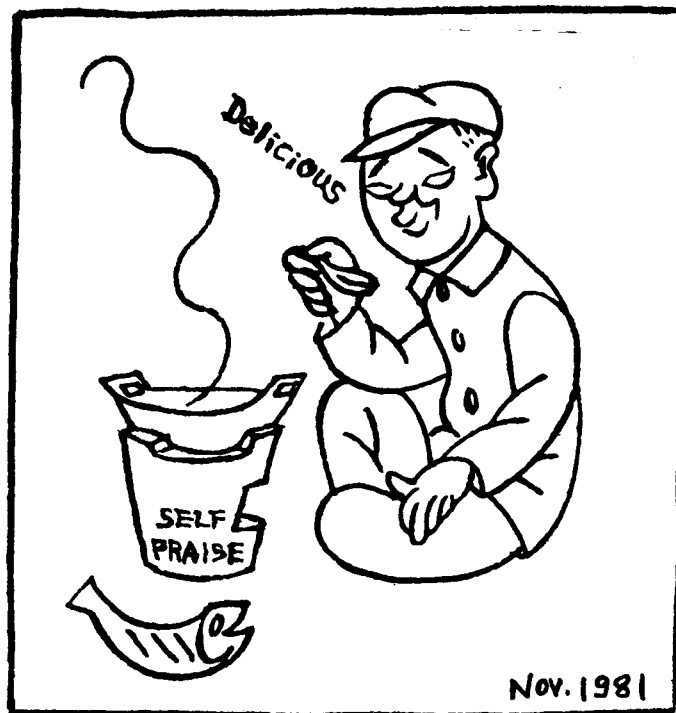
126. The Laughing Buddha learns bureaucratic business methods

*Maitreya Buddha, the Laughing Buddha, was loved because he always looked so cheerful. But today he shows a grim face to the old pilgrims who come to burn incense.*



127. The modest fishermen

*A comment on how some scholars like to keep the goodies to themselves.*



128. The blind man tasting soup

*There is a Chinese story about some blind men who were going to make fish soup. The fish all leapt out of the pot, but the cooks still thought the soup delicious.*





129. A detective cartoon

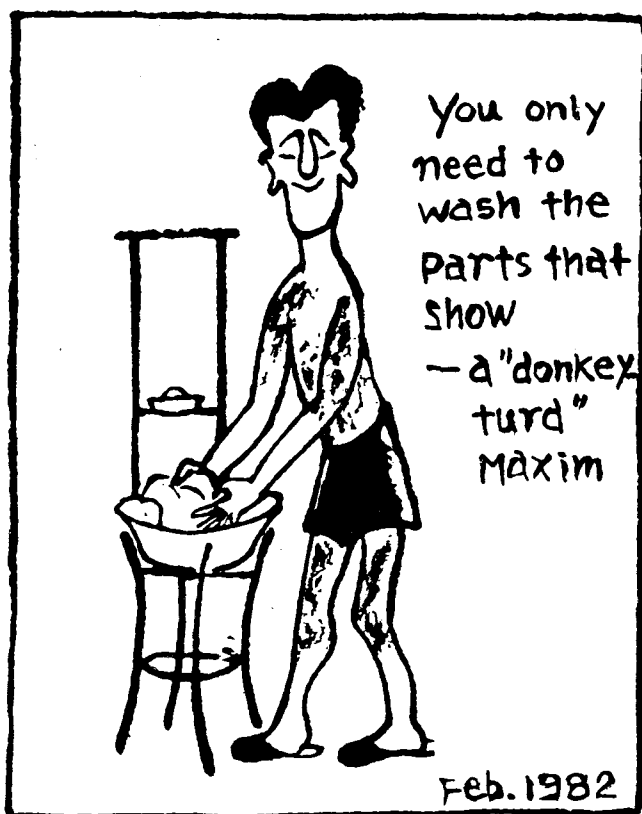


130. Only the magazine editor knows how much water some articles contain

*I wish some of the articles that are full of water and say little would be wrung dry.*

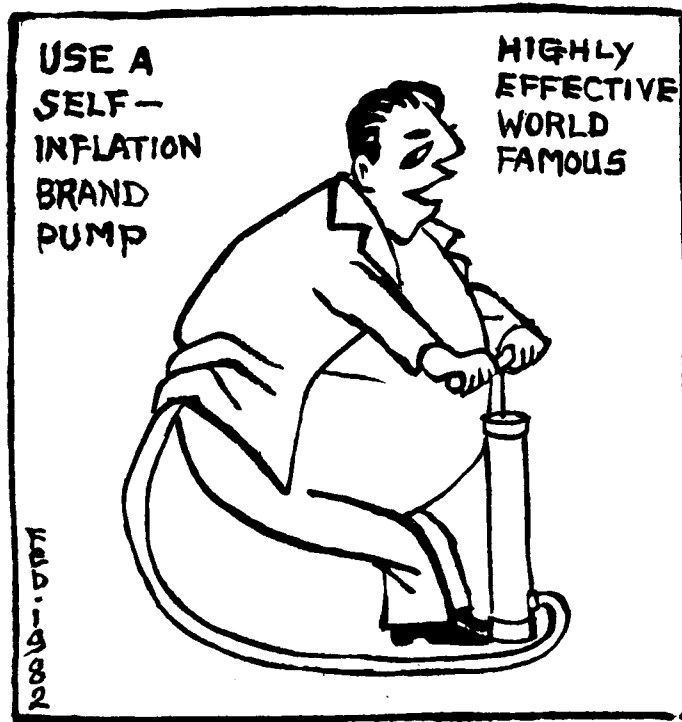


131. From the sound of trains at night you can tell the number of meetings



132. The secret of hygiene

*"Donkey turd" is a nickname Chinese people give to someone who's shiny on the outside and filthy inside.*



133. Not an advertisement



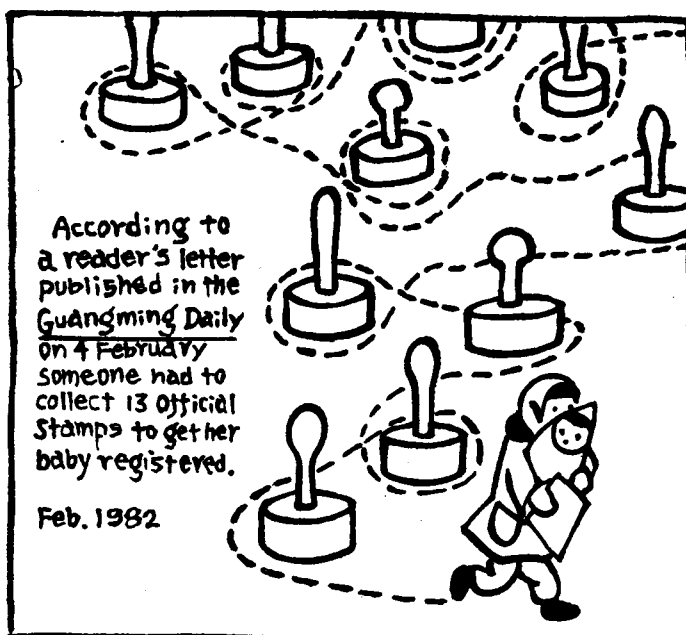
34. I think I'm perfectly all right

*For those officials who don't want to streamline their own organizations.*



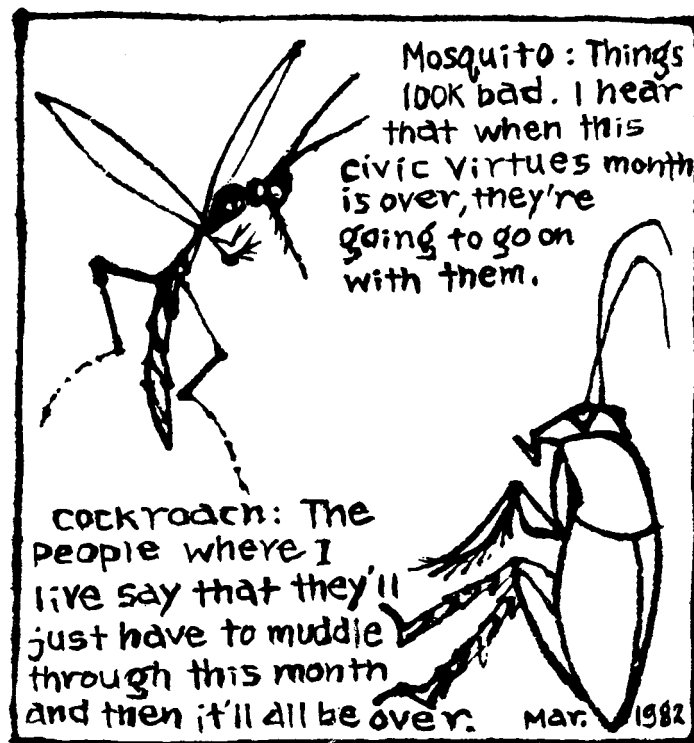
135. Bionics

*Some organizations migrate to the warm south in winter and the cool north in summer for their conferences.*



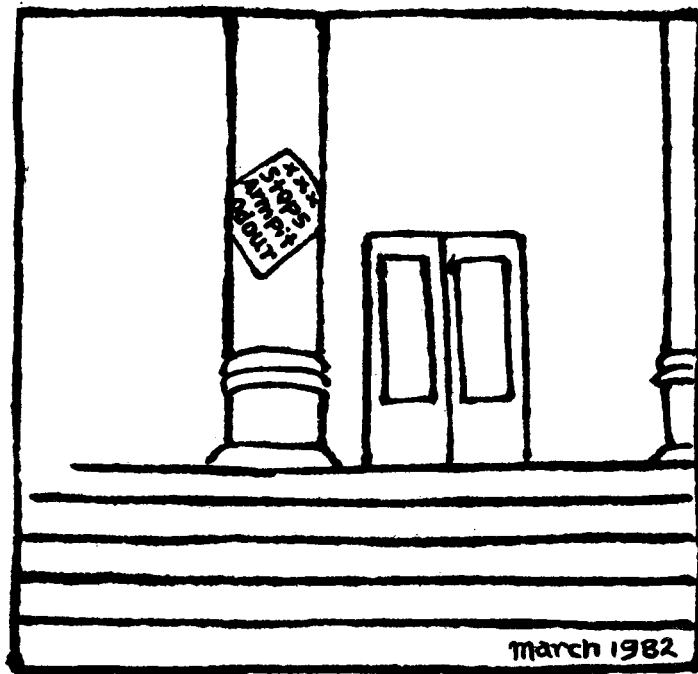
136. This is not an educational game!





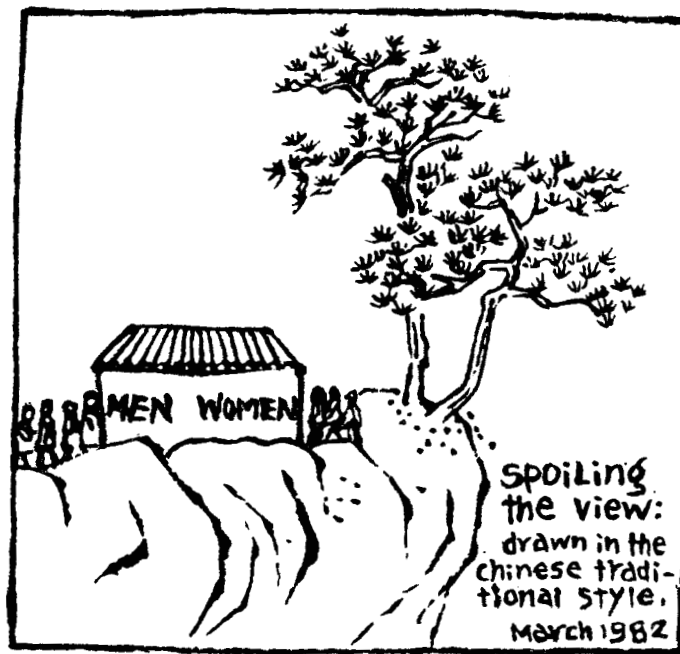
137. Plotting in the corner

*A dig at those who want to muddle through.*

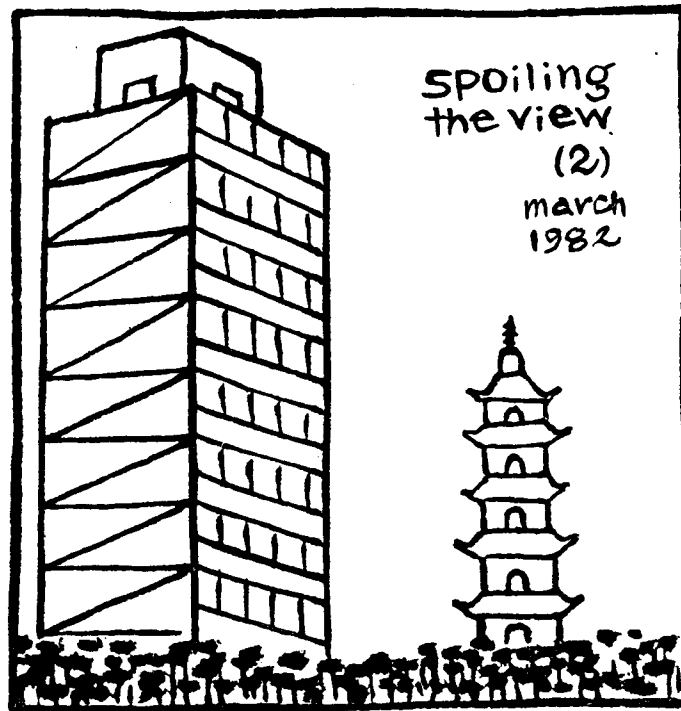


138. Barbarism in a civilized place

*During Civic Virtues Month, I saw this "advertisement" with my own eyes.*

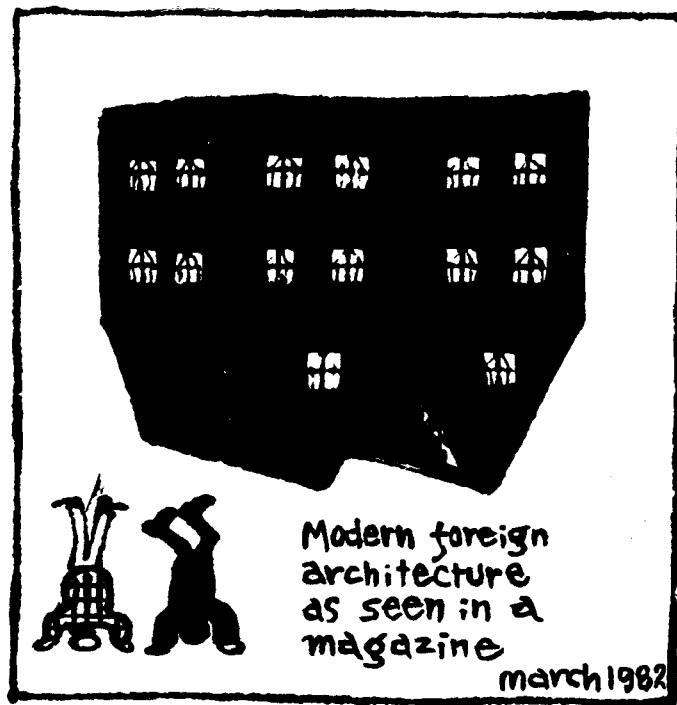


139. Spoiling the view

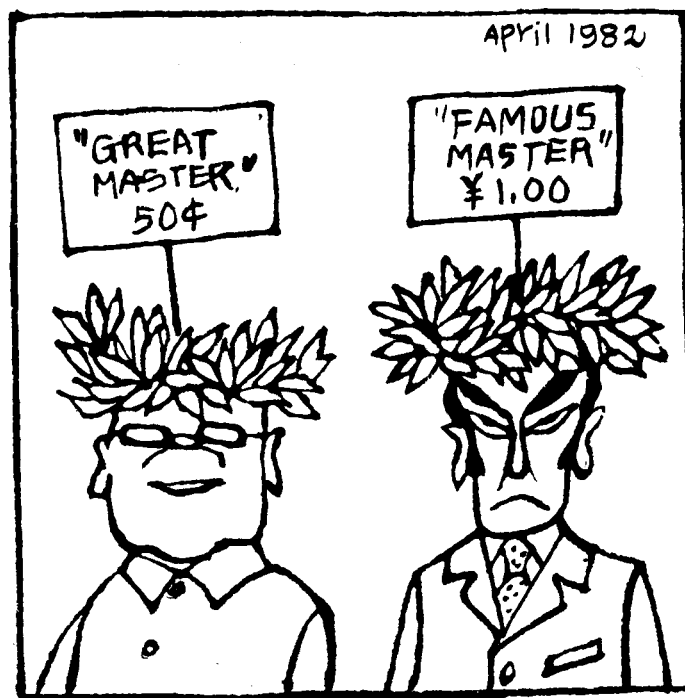


140. Competing for height with ancient monuments

*People have done some stupid things in the course of developing tourism in China.*



141. Drunken architectural design



142. Cut-price laurels

(a reaction to certain articles and reports about people)

*I'm against cheap and vulgar flattery.*



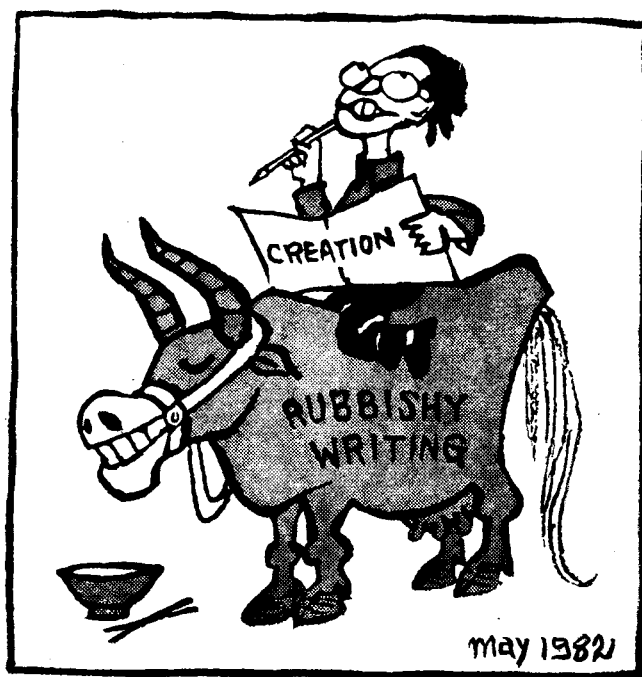
143. "I'm not taking this picture for a pin-up. I'm using it to illustrate the Tree-Planting Movement

*Some magazines and newspapers will use anything as an excuse to print a picture of a pretty girl.*



144. "Tell me, stranger, where are you from?"





145. A Horse's Mouth on A Cow's Head

Verses by Chi Bei'ou

Fix up an old cow with the mouth of a horse;  
 Let all the hares run after the hounds;  
 Take a boy and a girl from different tales,  
 And soon their great passion will grow without bounds.  
 Write utter nonsense; say just what you like;  
 Make sopranos sing bass and act like low clowns.

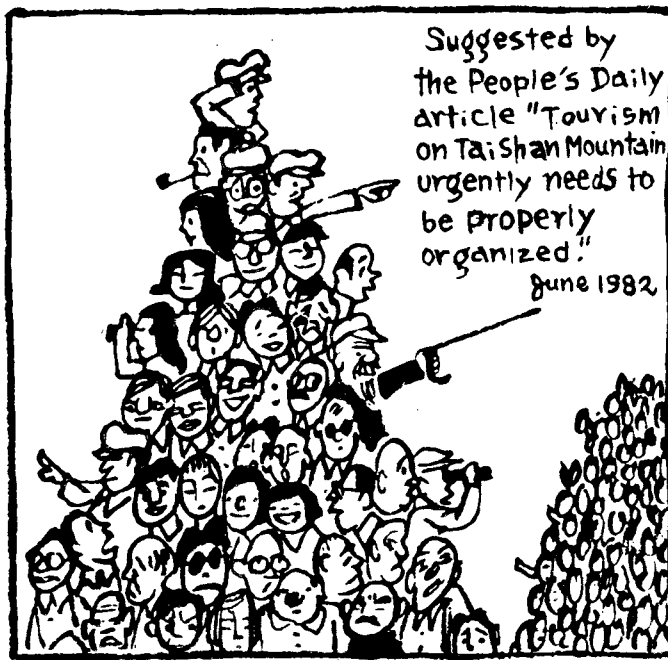
The Americas are where it's set,  
 The Middle Ages are the time,  
 The heroine's a Buddhist nun,  
 Revenge provides the story line.

Say that his plot is a load of old rubbish;  
 He'll say, "Conservative damned ignoramus!"  
 For such a great author whose writing is trash,  
 It's cheek he must use to make a big splash.

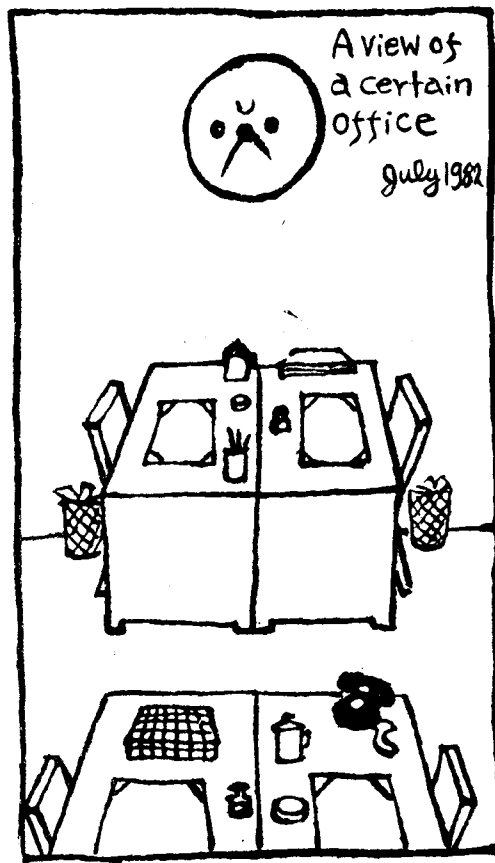


146. A TV fable

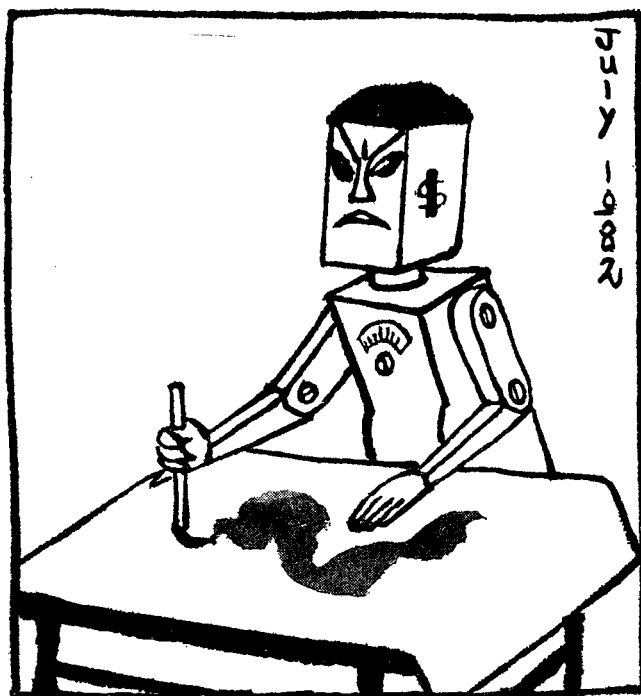
Son: "Dad, why's the TV tower leaning over?"  
Father: "It's bowing to apologize for this evening's lousy programmes."



147. On not seeing Mt. Taishan



148. Flexible knocking-off time

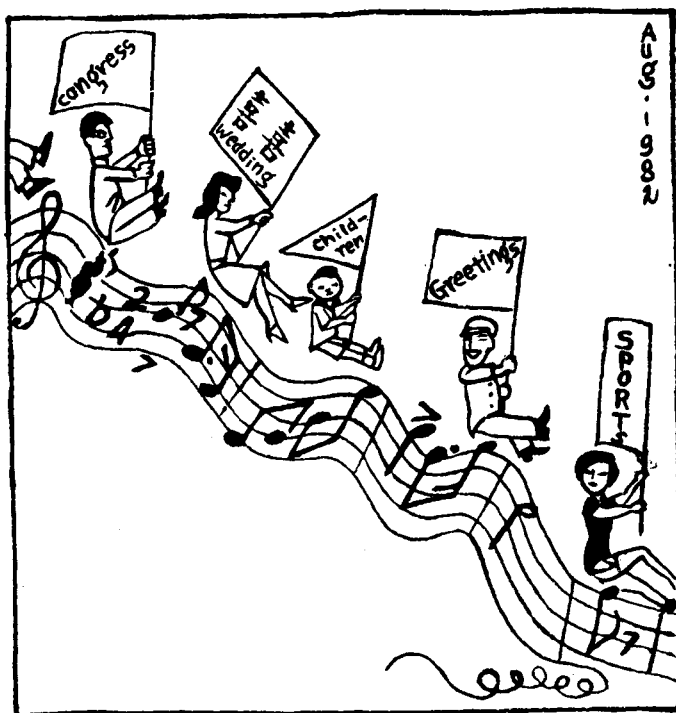


149. Mechanical Painting

Verses by Chi Bei'ou

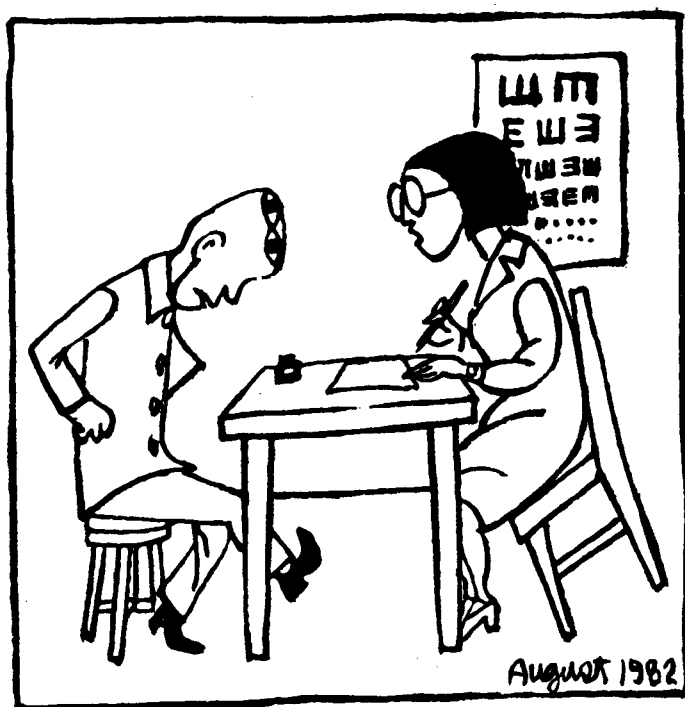
Who needs any life? Who needs any feeling?  
 A wave of the brush and the picture's unreeling.  
 Landscapes with mountains? Orchids? Bamboo?  
 Whatever you want the robot will do.  
 They'll all be the same, like woodblock reproductions.  
 So what if it's crude? It's fast mass-production.  
 Have as much as you like: I get profit and fame.  
 Tang Yin\* would be furious, and Rodin the same.

\* Tang Yin (1470-1523) was a noted Chinese painter.



150. A profound melody that can be sung by all  
(not a dig at "The Athletes' March", but ...)

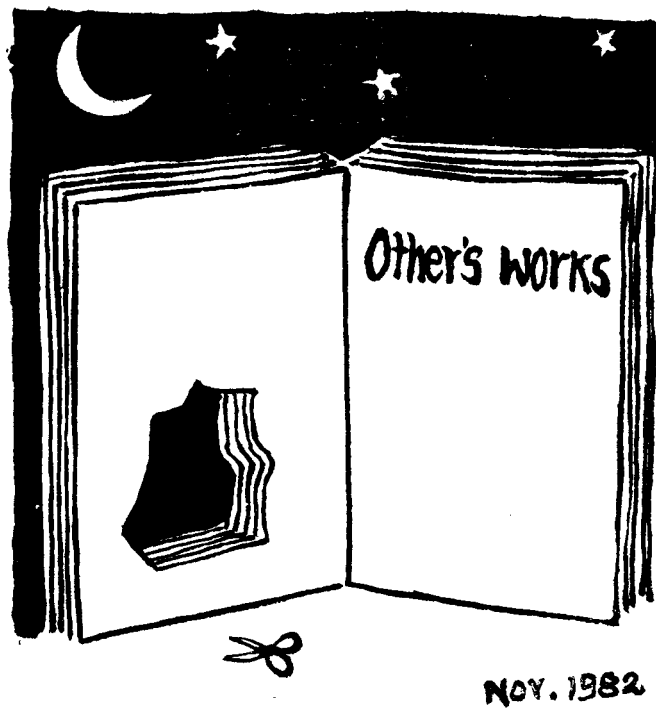
*Since there are too few good marches, the same tune is used  
on all occasions.*



151. Case history:

Since he became famous his eyes have gradually upward...

*A slight success makes some people so proud that they pay attention only to high-ranking and influential people. In Chinese, a boastful person is described as one whose eyes have gone to the top of his head.*



NOV. 1982

152. A case of plagiarism





153. Discussions on the Elimination of Rats

Verses by Chi Bei'ou

Gentlemen work with their mouths, not their hands;  
All they wear out are their lips and their tongues.  
There's much too much planning about killing rats,  
And endless discussions about rights and wrongs.

Some people advocate keeping more cats,  
Others say dogs will destroy rats for sure.  
"Fill up the rat-holes." "Build new tower-blocks."  
"Put down more poison." "Use bait as a lure."

They all talk at once; everyone has a say;  
With their high-flown debates they can never be done.  
They take the long view and avoid undue haste,  
While all over our house the rats freely run.

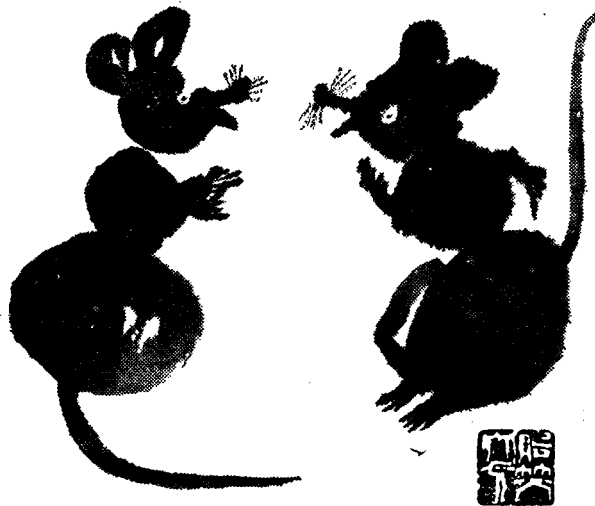
This heaven and earth will not always endure,  
But hot air without deeds will go on evermore.

### Mice Talking Big

There used to be a saying that nobody dares touch a tiger's backside. Now some people say that the same goes for cats. Mr. Mouse was so delighted when he heard this that he went back to his hole to tell his wife that it must be even more true for mice.

This can be taken as a portrait of one who lies and boasts.

November  
1932



154. Mice talking big



155. Too much added flavour

*A Chinese saying describes exaggeration as "adding vinegar and oil".*

老龍吹  
牛圖

牛圖

[illegible]